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Volume15 . Issue04

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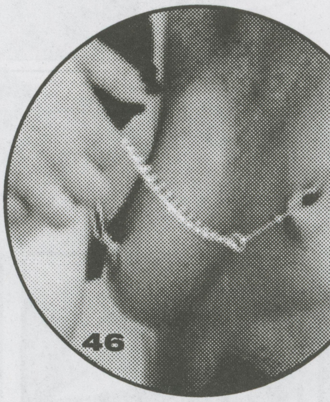

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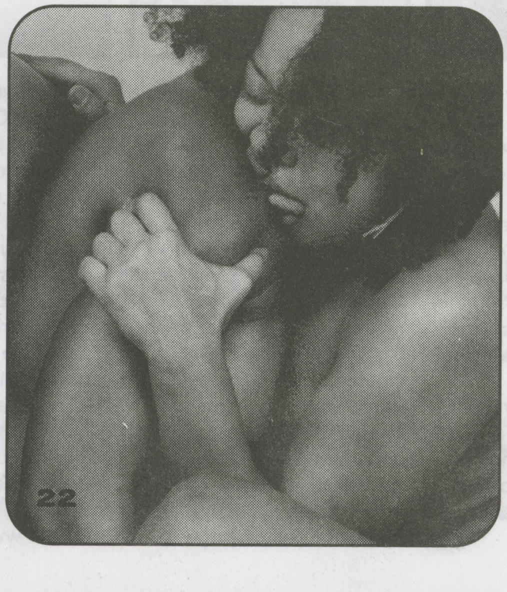

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Chicks With Attitude

Remember that cover of *Vanity Fair* where Cindy Crawford was shaving k.d. lang? It was published nearly a decade ago at the height of "lesbian chic," and it is still the best butch/femme image ever created by mainstream media. Here at **On Our Backs**, we wanted to pay homage to that duo and kick the shaving fantasy up a notch. Our barbershop duet Nigia and Brooks (page 22) show the world what dykes really do with razors and a whole lot of attitude! Speaking of attitude, our pinup Eden apparently studied Rachel Venning's how-to column in the last issue (Oct/Nov)–check out her incredible ejaculation skills on page 12. In honor of the holidays, fearless Adventure Girl Michelle Tea and fiction writers Amy Barber and Gina Chopp take religious sex to hot and hilarious new heights. My Christmas and Hanukkah gift came early this year–armed with an editor's eye and a pornographer's sensibility. She's our new assistant editor, Diana Cage. Diana and I promise to keep the smut coming in the New Year...

With lube + affection,

Tristan Taormino

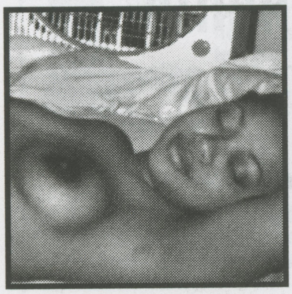
Tristan Taormino, Editor

DIANA: BEVERLY PAET / TRISTAN: JODY WHEAT

Above: I was very naughty this year, and Santa knows it. So were J.P. and Heather–look for their frisky scene on page 32.

Diana shows off one of our covers at the Folsom Street Fair.

contributors

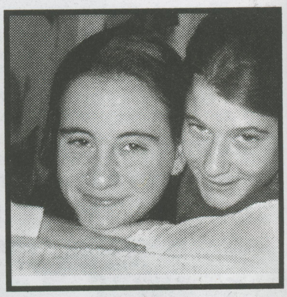


"I'm a creative individual who throws as much passion into my art, poetry, and science-fantasy writing as I can. I've recently produced *Allspice Magazine*, an erotic showcase featuring some premier New York artists and writers," says cover model **Nigia S. Stephens**. "I'm a top who likes nights filled with pastries and pussy, dildos, and fetish clothes. I'm bisexual and couldn't give a hot ham sandwich for those that can't stomach it!" Check out the close shave she gets on page 22.

MR Daniel is the author of "Sex Hall" (page 38). She is currently working on a manuscript of one kind or another (dissertation, various short stories, etc.). Her erotica also appears in *Lip Service, The Best of Best Lesbian Erotica*, and *ISSUES: The Magazine for Lesbians of Color*. In other incarnations she's a spoken-word performer and visual media curator. She thanks Té Okomoto, "for inspiring me to do more." Check out her sizzling sex club story on page 38.

"I like the idea of portraying real people in the media. We don't all aspire to be Barbie," says **Kelly Brill**. "Funny thing about Eden is the first time she was in front of my camera, she didn't exactly want to be there. This time around she had a new attitude! I enjoy photographing people with or without clothes. I also enjoy being photographed without any on myself! My 2-year-old son and I have been known to get naked in front of the lens." Check out Kelly's sexy shots of Eden on page 12.

Michele Serchuk relishes her role as the **On Our Backs** East Coast associate photographer, and all the trouble and mayhem that goes with it. (Just kidding. We never get into trouble. Ever.) Michele is also assistant photo gallery editor for Scarletletters.com, and her work appears regularly in print here and there, and especially in *Cupido* (Norway). We know her barbershop scene (page 22) will inspire you to do some shaving of your own. You can find more of Michelle's handiwork on her Web site www.photodiva.com.



Gina Chopp was stuck with her family in church last Mother's Day when she remembered the advice her girlfriend, **Amy Barber**, had given her beforehand: "If you get bored, just think about sex." The process of writing Gina's church fantasy was put on hold more than once when the couple's urge to act it out overcame them. The resulting story is proof that good Catholics make the best bad girls. Gina and Amy's hot story "Confession" can be found on page 40.

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MICHELE SERCHUK

Get What You Want

This is in response to the letter by Lynda Winter, who thought you featured "ugly" women and the article on play piercing amounting to self-mutilation. Granted, piercing is not my thing, so I probably won't be doing any of it myself, but it works for lots of folks. And it doesn't seem to do any long-term damage to pierce with small needles–a little scar tissue probably. Having done a little playing with other kinds of pain myself, I may say the majority of people I have met do not have self-esteem problems. On the contrary, they know who they are and what they want.

As for the women being "ugly," well, remember that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. You might try asking for pics of women you *do* like. Myself, I tend to like femme women, athletic in build, that kind of thing. There are some women I don't find attractive, but then again others are HOT!!!!

Keep the pics and the stories you like, toss the rest. There's enough variety in this mag to suit almost anybody, I'd think. Thanks, **On Our Backs**, for the great stories and pics! Lesbian porn is the BEST!

Kerry Richardson
Via the Internet

Gushing Praise

I have to say, you and all your compadres, former and current, at the magazine have been so wonderful and positive. It's a joy to work with you. I've published porn-writing before and had not had nearly as great an experience in the least. Thank you for that affirmation of awesome energy.

Eden
Via the Internet

Check out the foxy pics of Eden on page 12. She squirts!

Phyllis Fan

Let me start by saying that I absolutely LOVE your magazine! I've purchased it from its conception and would not dream of missing an issue. I am writing because I would love to model for one of your photographers, Phyllis Christopher. I'm a huge fan.

SS
Washington, D.C

Around the World

I'm a French dyke from Paris, and a regular subscriber of **On Our Backs**. This letter is to congratulate you for your June/July issue. Nearly all the photos are good and erotic. I did not like "Classroom Misbehavior." It seems false, arranged, and untrue. The photo on page 33 where she licks the ground is perfectly ridiculous. Congratulations on your good job. I know of French, British, and Australian [dyke porn] magazines. You are the best one on the market.

Anne
Paris, France

Full Color

I can hardly wait for the day when I open an **On Our Backs** and see glossy color photos! Penetration and more butches, please. Then I'll feel like the magazine is worth $5.95. But I still love **On Our Backs**.

Megan
Via the Internet

Midwestern Butches

My girlfriend and I love the magazine, but we think there is too much concentration on leather and BDSM. We have a great sex life, and many sexy friends, and none of us look anything like the women in your magazine. How about featuring more real women, especially BUTCHES. All of us Midwestern dykes want to be represented too.

Kelly
Via the Internet

Gender Bender

I am a faithful reader of **On Our Backs** and I can't begin to tell you how delighted I am with the new direction you are taking. The object of my adoration is a bit of a gender outlaw...a most beautifully handsome boy-grrrl...and we are pleased to now feel included.

Vickie
Via the Internet

Web Site Woes

I love your site...I just have one complaint. It never changes!! Please, please update it!

Via the Internet

Our brand-spanking-new website will launch ***November 30, 2000****. You are personally invited to log on and get off.*

Punk Pink

I first want to take a moment to thank you for publishing "taboo" in **On Our Backs**. People are so afraid to seek the diversities of lesbian life. Well, I like it all–thin, fat, dark, light, dildos, no dildos. The only request I have is for some punk dykes with spikes. Maybe some boots, some braces, mohawks, and shaved heads. I've been a punk most of my life and find it a little hard to fit into the community. It would be great if you could help me. Thank you so much!

Spyke
West Hollywood, California

Can I Get an Amen?

HALLELUJAH for **On Our Backs**. Good smut on a cold night in the middle of nowhere. Transplanted city dykes everywhere thank you. Especially me!

Tat
Via the Internet

talk to us sweet, talk to us dirty. Send your letters via e-mail to letters@onourbacksmag.com, via fax to 415.648.4705, or write **On Our Backs** magazine, 3415 César Chávez, Ste. 101, San Francisco, CA 94110.

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michele serchuk

OnOurBacks
THE BEST OF LESBIAN SEX

adventure.girl

Fuck Me Jesus

by Michelle Tea

illustration by Fish

The whole idea came about because sometimes, when I'm being fucked really good, I start hollering "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!," and my girl got the idea that perhaps she could actually be Jesus, so we set about preparing for the most elaborate role-play of our sexual careers–Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Sexy, perverted, and blasphemous–a thrill to top any of the run-of-the-mill power-imbalance sex-plays we're so fond of. Kassy, my partner in sacrilege, went to work cruising the Bible for info concerning Jesus' relationship with his famed consort. Incidentally, she didn't find anything in the scriptures that said what we were about to do was wrong. It does say not to take the guy's name in vain, but there is no prohibition against assuming his identity for sex games with your girlfriend.

I went to work attempting to transform my bedroom into the ancient temple where sacred harlot Magdalene pleasured her visitors. This was basically impossible. I'm sure the holy sex cathedrals of the Goddess were not littered with empty Budweiser bottles, dirty panties, and torn notebooks. I cleaned up as best I could, then lit a million sticks of incense, hoping to simply blot out the mess with clouds of spicy smoke. Next, I had to cook. Those ancient brothels weren't the wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am cathouses of today; the johns expected a meal on top of everything else. I cook about as often as I clean, so this whole scene was feeling ever more exotic, which I guess was appropriate. Should you want to try out this game with your own loved one, let me suggest the meal I prepared: grilled artichokes (buy them that way, don't actually grill them, silly!), dried olives, slabs of feta, dolmas from a can, and good, old-fashioned lesbian hummus. I added figs, some grapes, and a chocolate cake, all arranged on a tray decorated with tiny plastic fruits from the dollar store. I brought the food into my room, which was just billowing with smoke from the incense. There might have been an ancient temple under all that smog–who could tell?

Costumes were the next challenge. Kassy was locked in the bathroom, trying to dress like Jesus without looking like a dumb hippie. Caftans were unacceptable, we had agreed–same with the long, stringy hairdo and goat's beard. She'd stolen a pair of white bell-bottom pants from her dad and was applying sideburns to her face with spirit gum. We decided that the scene would take place before Jesus had gotten so holy that he let his looks go–back when he was a young, strapping carpenter who maintained his facial hair. I found a long skirt and a weird, paisley halter top that used to be part of a psychedelic seventies bathing suit. Applied lots of eyeliner, and a shawl for my head. I looked like a girl dressed like a gypsy for Halloween, kind of Stevie Nicks.

Jesus knocked at my door and I let him into my den of smoke. "Wow," he choked. His benevolent eyes watered. "Welcome, Jesus," I breathed huskily, and we both cracked up laughing. It all felt really Dungeons & Dragons, or Renaissance Faire. Kassy looked good, like a foxy boy with cool sideburns in a pair of flares. We started chugging wine to loosen reality's grip. I started feeding Jesus–olives from my palm, bunches of grapes dipped into his mouth. I took his dirty feet in my hands and dunked them in a bowl of warm water, rubbed the grime away. It was kicking in–the wine, the asphyxiating smoke, our roles. I removed the shawl from my head and dried his feet with my hair, bent over in sweet servitude, meticulously wiping every drop with my long tangles. Probably the original Magdalene didn't leave streaks of blue hair dye on Christ's feet, but we live in different times. I anointed him there with frankincense oil I'd bought at the health food store, climbed onto him, and began to undulate like a Biblical lap-dancer.

Not surprisingly, Jesus tried to save me. He talked to me about salvation while gently groping my tits, the food I had prepared for him sitting in his belly. Being an ex-women's studies major, I explained to him the ways of the Goddess, how I was serving her divine decree of pleasure, and chastised him for trying to stomp out her rule with his newfangled ascetic religious movement. Never had I engaged in such a scholarly sex scene, and my defiant whore-brain sent pulses of excellent heat to where Jesus's rubber cock pushed against my panties. I teased him about his fisherman buddies–what did they do all alone together for weeks at a time in the desert, getting high off sleep deprivation, no women in sight? "We whores know about you Christians," I murmured, sliding Christ's cock from his flares and slipping it inside. "You all touch each other when the women aren't around, don't you?" And so our Jesus scene slowly morphed into an excellent fag-porn dirty-talk, and Mary Magdalene fucked Jesus into such a state of divine bliss he swore he'd end his killjoy religious movement and return his flock to festive paganism. Coughing delicately from the excess of incense, we fell into an ancient sleep. When I awoke in the morning, I found I had a horrible case of food poisoning from those canned dolmas and was comforted by Jesus as I barfed into the grape bowl.

Every issue, **adventure girl** sets off for another sex-capade. Like to see her make your fantasy her reality? Write it down and send it to: **On Our Backs**, 3415 César Chávez, Suite 101, San Francisco, CA, 94110; fax 415-648-4705; e-mail editorial@onourbacksmag.com.

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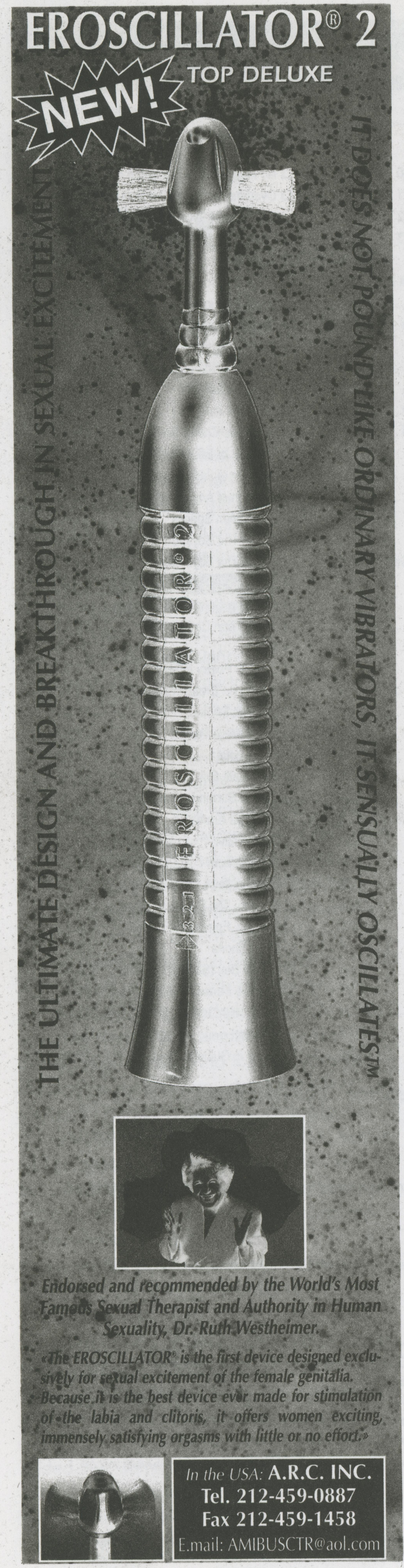

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CHLOE ATKINS

Easier Orgasms, Please

Although my partner is very skilled with her hands and mouth, I can't seem to orgasm with her. I am able to bring myself to orgasm; however, it is rare that someone else can make me come. I am in control when it comes to sex (a top), and I have found other tops seem to have the same problem. Is there any advice that you can give me that would make the orgasms come easier?

When one obsesses on the sex one "should" be having instead of the pleasure one is actually having, energy is wasted that could otherwise be used to enhance lovemaking. There is no such thing as a "wrong" or "bad" orgasm. One of my favorite ways to come with any of my lovers is this: after they have had all the fun they want, I have them caress me while I use my vibrator. I'm also occasionally overcome by excitement and will masturbate in the middle of things and come that way. As long as I honor the pleasure I'm having, being as open to my fear and love as possible, I always enjoy myself to the fullest and so does my partner. As I make my peace with letting go and surrendering (major issues for tops), my orgasm pattern becomes more versatile. Your partner can help best by letting go of any ego investment she has with your orgasm. It's not her job to make you come, she just needs to love you while you figure out where you're stuck and why. You'll either make peace with how you come or you will shift and expand your abilities.

Gay Man in a Dyke's Body?

Can you explain why gay men have it easier when it comes to enjoying a purely physical relationship with one another? I want to continue to have monogamous sexual relationships with other women; I think this is one of the most wonderful things you can do for, and with, another person. However, I am unable to compromise and pretend–to be "in love" within a few weeks or months, and deal with all the other baggage most lesbians think is necessary to this long, strange trip we are all on.

It is assumed that men are more inherently sexually driven and that women are the more naturally "sexless" gender. Part of the cultural baggage for women (politically savvy dykes included) is believing one must be "in love" before sex is okay. So women convince themselves they are in love when they just might be merely horny, lonely, or curious. The only thing you can do is to recognize your own boundaries and communicate them. Take more time before bedding a woman and talk out your respective sexual beliefs and issues as part of the courting ritual. As long as you're as authentic and centered as you can be, you'll be fine, just expect to get some shit for it until a woman comes along who is as forthright as you are.

Golden Shower Girl

My new lover wants me to drink her urine, she finds it a turn-on to urinate into my mouth as part of sex play. Is this a safe practice? I love to drink her cunt juices as she comes, but I find it exciting to also drink her pee. Is there anything that can hurt me in doing this?

It's safe to drink her pee, as long as she does not have HIV, any STDs, or hepatitis. Kinky people call piss play water sports or golden showers, but I know plenty of vanilla girls who just love to eroticize that golden nectar. For more info on pee drinking, peruse the writings of Carol Queen, who has done some fine essays on the subject.

Nina Hartley is a porn star and registered nurse. Send your woes her way.
Fax: 415.648.4705; mail: Probe Nina,
3415 César Chavéz, Suite 101,
San Francisco, CA 94110;
e-mail: nina@onourbacksmag.com

Strap It On

by Rachel Venning

Certain things go together; peanut butter and chocolate, raindrops and roses, dykes and dicks. There's something about a hole. Once you get over the fear that wanting to strap a dick on means you want to be a man, or that wanting to receive the plunge and thrust of a hip-driven love stick means that you're straight, the wide world of dildos and harnesses is yours to explore. Here are some tips to guide you on your strap-on adventure.

1. Foreplay.

Foreplay isn't just for high school. Kissing, petting, licking—all that hot, sweet action will get you juicy and primed for the main event.

2. It's all about attitude.

Not that snotty stud attitude, but the vibe that you're doing it to have fun, sweat, and get off.

HOW TO PICK A DICK

If you've got a steady girlfriend, the two of you should do the shopping together. The best strap-ons are the ones in which the harnesses and the dildo are sold separately. Check the width of the fingers you like for penetration to get an idea of what diameter dildo to choose. Silicone is the best material for dildos because it retains body heat, has a gently resilient texture, and cleans up in a snap. If you're not sure of the size or even if you'll like it at all, go for a less-expensive rubber one. For harnesses, the most important features are comfort and fit. Leather is very comfortable, while denim and nylon are lower-cost options, and rubber can make for fetish fun. Some harnesses are G-string-style with a single strap, others have two straps that come around the sides of the ass like a jock strap. Choose whichever suits your taste. If you like to use thick or thin dildos, a harness with an O-ring that snaps out allows one to pop in the ring that best fits the dildo (standard O-rings fit average-size dildos just fine).

3. Secure it.

Cinch your harness up tight. The more securely the dildo is attached to your body, the more control you will have and the more sensation will travel through the dick and harness to you.

4. Use your hands.

You're not just a piston with a mission, you're a multitalented, multilimbed sex machine. Don't get so caught up in the technicalities of steering your pocket rocket that you forget the pleasures of squeezing. Pay attention to her nipples, kiss her throat, reach down to her clit (or yours), and turn up the intensity.

5. It's how you use it.

It's not the size of the boat, it's the motion of the ocean. Put some surge and roll in your action and your lover will want to cruise with you time and time again. If you're pushing it in, go for the soft parts. Angle your dick up towards her G spot; don't bang into her spine.

6. The blow job.

Get the most out of a lesbian blow job. The visual excitement generated by your bobbing head, stretched mouth, and lasciviously lapping tongue are important stimulation. Wrap your hand around the base of her cock and pump vigorously. As you slide your hand down, make sure the pressure pushes into her clit. The combination of seeing you, feeling the energy of your queer, queer love, and that push into her pelvis may make her come.

7. Back door action.

If you're knocking on the back door, take it a little slower. Many women prefer a smaller dildo for anal penetration than they do for vaginal sex. Remember to use plenty of lube. Start out with your fingers to ease the dildo into her. Make sure the penetration is angled towards her G spot, not straight up along her spine.

MICHELE SERCHUK

8. Position yourself.

The missionary position allows for salt-licking, tongue-kissing, face-to-face intimacy, but other positions have their charms as well. For cervix-bangingly deep penetration, rear entry lets the dildo in about an inch farther. If the receptive partner scoots her kitty to the edge of the mattress while the dildo-wearer stands by the side of the bed, that feet-on-the-floor stability can make for long sessions that are easier on the knees, back, and shoulders of the fucker.

9. Packing pointers.

Packing isn't just for vacation. A bulge is hot, but a tent pole is a turn-off. For the most realistic, manlike package, try a soft, squishy dildo made just for that purpose. If you want to pack with the toy you're going to fuck with, try wearing snug briefs (boys', of course) or a jock strap to keep that woody in the shed until it's time to get choppin'.

10. Ham it up!

You've got a dick, so maybe you wanna be a guy—not all the time, but at least for one night. Don't be afraid of your erotic imagination. Play Daddy and his princess, Mommy and her best boy, or leather fags in a Folsom Street alley. Or you can be a chick with a dick, a cocksure femme... Whatever your fantasy, live it out.

Rachel Venning is the co-owner of Toys in Babeland (www.babeland.com) the famously fun-loving lesbian-owned sex toy store.

Ejaculating Eden

photography by
Kelly Brill

Name: Eden, like the garden

Age: 28

Identity: Sensualist without regard to gender

First porn experience: Sneaking into my father's den, squeezing between the desk and the bookshelf and jerking off to *Penthouse Forum*.

Must-try sex act: An extended tantric orgasm that lasts for 22 minutes with my eyes rolled into the back of my head, my mind blown open, and the sky pouring in.

What makes her clit hum: A certain resonance and frequency. Directly applied if possible.

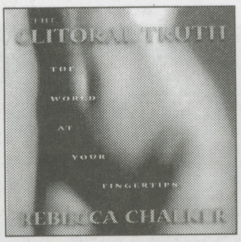
About the shoot: I love public sex and being watched, so having an audience added to the experience. We shot for seven hours straight. At one point my pussy was tired, but my libido was still raring to go.

On porn: I consider myself a selfish evangelist for women's orgasms. Too few women know the wellsprings of power and joy that they have inherently within them, and I want to make sure that they know how to get it. I explore sensuality and hedonism and try to imbue my life with its repercussions. I hope others can do the same. **–dc**

The Clitoral Truth: The World at Your Fingertips

by Rebecca Chalker

[Seven Stories Press]

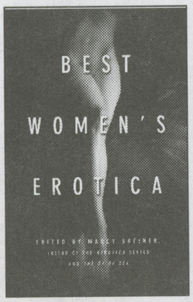


Rebecca Chalker was one of the editors of The Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers book *A New View of a Woman's Body*, which revolutionized the way we think about female sexual anatomy. *The Clitoral Truth* expands on the central idea of *A New View* that the clitoris is not just the sensitive nub but an entire system, comprising 18 different structures. With great detail (and terrific illustrations by San Francisco artist and *On Our Backs* illustrator Fish), Chalker covers anatomy, orgasm, and female ejaculation in the wonderful first half of the book. The last few chapters cover Chalker's thoughts on women-run sex stores and workshops, the power of masturbation, and other ideas which may seem less eye-opening to sex-radical folks. Overall, an extremely important book on female sexuality. **tt**

Best Women's Erotica

edited by Marcy Sheiner

[Cleis Press]

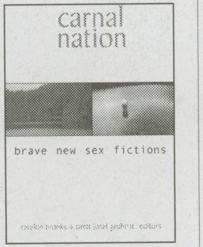


This first edition of a new annual series features a range of women's erotic writing–lesbian, bisexual, straight, serious, humorous. Veteran erotica editor Sheiner presents old favorites and new voices in this promising debut. Hanne Blank provides an intensely erotic portrait of a polyamorous and deeply devoted foursome, while Kate Dominic masterfully plays with gender and sexual orientation in "The Album," a tale about a kinky bi couple. Leslea Newman's "Eggs McMenopause" is good for some laughs, as is Susannah Indigo's "Ratatouille," which opens with the line "Miles, did you know that zucchinis make the best cocks?" Although this collection is mostly straight, there are some dyke offerings, such as Maryann Mohanraj's tale of a youthful Berkeley affair in "Lita." One of the best stories, and one that many will identify with, is Katherine Love's "Arrogance," in which her protagonist learns to strip for her own personal pleasure, ending up with "Me, my magic wand, and the girl in the full-length mirror, larger than life." Sound familiar? **rkb**

Carnal Nation

edited by Carellin Brooks + Brett Josef Grubisic

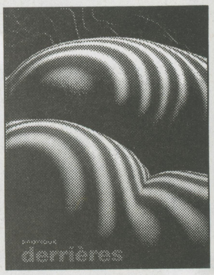
[Arsenal Pulp Press]



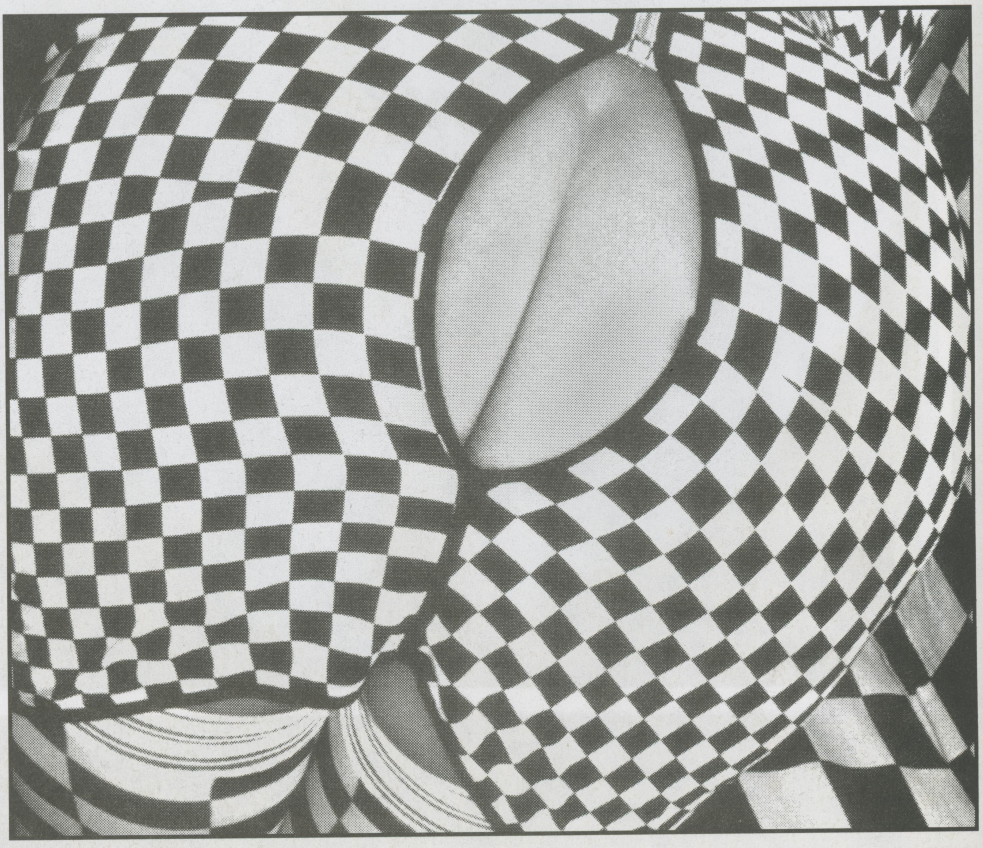
If the brain really is our biggest sex organ, and if your brain likes a *lot* of theory, then this book is gonna get your motor running. A *very* long introduction about an academic conference explains why the editors decided to put together a book to prove that not all Canadian sex writing is about death and destruction. Well, these stories are pretty damn bleak, on the whole. But if you liked *Crash*, you'll like this sex noir collection. There isn't a whole lot of homo stuff, but it's all pretty damn queer. My personal favorite is the one where the gal, who may or not may not be an abuse survivor, gives her bedridden and helpless dad a hand job. **ta**

Erotique Derrières

[Carlton Books]



I'm just going to come right out and say it: I love women's asses. Nothing turns me on like a hottie with a pert butt and an attitude to back it up. Well, let me tell you, this collection contains more than 60 erotic photographs of the body part I most worship. The images range from artsy and graceful to downright hot. The photography is consistently well done and the book contains photographs taken by many of the twentieth century's leading fashion and fetish photographers, big names like Lucien Clergue, Thomas Karsten, and Craig Morey. Campy quotes from music, literature, and film punctuate the photos: "There's a broad with her future behind her," (Constance Bennett on Marilyn Monroe), or my personal favorite lyric from a Queen song, "Fat-bottomed girls, you make the rocking world go 'round." A fabulous collection for those of us who happen to be all about the ass. **dc**



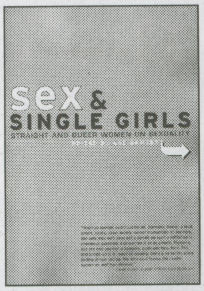
The ass as optical illusion in *Erotique Derrières*

review staff

ta . Toni Amato
rkb . Rachel Kramer Bussel
dc . Diana Cage
tt . Tristan Taormino

Sex & Single Girls

edited by Lee Damsky
[Seal Press]



Forty years ago (try not to think about that), Helen Gurley Brown published her best-selling sex manifesto/ manual, and at long last, Lee Damsky is doing gals the favor of "putting out" for the rest of us–not *the* single girl, but *all* us single girls (and plenty of genderfuckers included too this time around). There's something for just about everyone here, from het cocksuckers to scary femme tops. You'll find the good, bad, and ugly–from discussions of incest to a hilarious anthem of boring sex. Not many of the pieces are straight-up erotica, but after reading dozens of powerful, funny, sexy tales of all the ways we do it, you'll want to go out and try a few yourself. **ta**

Uniform Sex: Erotic Stories of Women in Service

edited by Linnea Due
[Alyson]

UniformSex
Erotic Stories of Women in Service
Edited by Linnea Due

Linnea Due has collected some of the hottest stories around about women in (and out of) their uniforms, in all kinds of settings. Cecilia Tan's protagonist learns just how naughty high-school baton twirlers can be, while the tough-talking host of Nicole Foster's "Butch Talk" show has the tables turned on her. These stories are fast-paced, exciting, and creative, and they're full of plenty of steamy sex that will have you wanting to chase the next girl in uniform you see. While many of these stories are humorous as well as sexy, J.M. Redmann's story "Naked," which tells of loss (of both love and identity) is deeply heartfelt and touching. The women in these stories are bold, daring, and arousing, most of all because some don't even know the sexy effect their uniforms have on their admirers. This is a perfect book to read to your lover late at night, you may even get some ideas for uniforms of your very own. **rkb**

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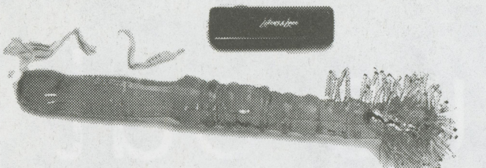
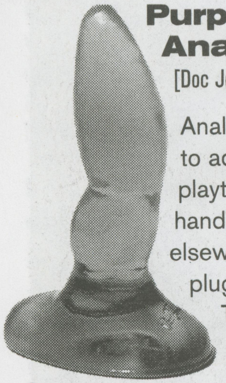


Womb Broom

[Lotions & Lace, $44.95]

If you've ever fantasized about sex toys designed by David Cronenberg, then this baby is for you. A small bullet vibe encased in alien-shaped green jelly, the womb broom is more extraterrestrial than sexy. The vibrations were too subtle to get me going, but the little rubbery tentacles offered the interesting, if not arousing, sensation of bugs crawling over my skin. I was forced to give up on it when my partner, under the impression I was being attacked, ripped the monstrous thing from my naked body and wrestled it to the ground. **dc**

bottom line . Might be useful for Sigourney Weaver role-playing fantasies.



Purple Spectragel Anal Plug

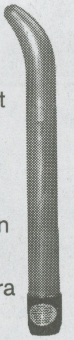
[Doc Johnson, $9]

Anal plugs are a great way to add extra fun to your playtime and still leave your hands free to work magic elsewhere. This cute, lavender plug is perfect for beginners. The pliable jelly rubber is soft and comfortable, perfect to pop in during vaginal penetration for that totally filled feeling. I loved the rippled body and angled tip, great for backdoor G spot access. If your girl is an anal novice, this supple plug is a good way to drive her wild without scaring her off. **dc**

bottom line . A good starter plug.

Slender G-Spot

[California Exotic Novelties, $15]



This very slim but sturdy toy is great for those who want to find their G spot or want to tease or torment it once they've found it. Its firmness and curved shape are effective even without the vibration (which comes in varying speeds), but with the extra buzz you will be skyrocketing your way toward many wonderful orgasms. Plus it comes in a pretty purple color. This is a fun toy if you want fast results! **rkb**

bottom line . Slim, purple, and fits in your purse.

PULSATRON PROGRAMMING
Lady Calston

Pulsatron (wim bullet)

[Lady Calston, $19.95]

The Pulsatron features a small silver bullet and a rather bulky battery pack that offers seven different speeds and pulses. Lady Calston sells other vibes that you can plug into the pack as well. This one wasn't really my cup of tea, but if you're looking for a vibrator with more than one way to buzz, this might be for you. **rkb**

bottom line . Adds oomph to a bullet or other toy.

Wet Pheromone Formula

[Wet International, $8]

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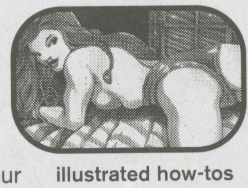
Pheromones, odorless hormonal secretions, may have no smell, but our nasal passages detect them and relay signals to our brain. Pheromones stimulate the brain's hypothalamus, which controls the libido. So what does this chemistry lesson have to do with fucking? Well, Wet International has a new lube which contains pheromones, and it's the only brand I know of that has such a formula. It feels much like the thick-textured Wet Original, and it works well for a variety of penetrative adventures. But who can tell if your hypothalamus is responding when you're busy with your fist in your girlfriend's cunt? **tt**

bottom line . Just as effective as Wet Original lube with the possible bonus of boosting your lust through natural hormones.

click.it

www.libida.com

Libida is a new site dedicated to all aspects of women's sexuality. With message boards, lots of sex information, reviews, and a store, editors provide a women's perspective on sex. Features include a piece on becoming a dominatrix, antidepressants and sex, and a gangbang. You can even chart your arousal cycle! I enjoyed the "sexual myths" section on porn-loving women and sex and aging. Though mainly hetero, dykes will enjoy hot erotic fiction, a column by Susie Bright, and a well-stocked online store for sex toys, books, and videos. **rkb**



illustrated how-tos on libida.com

www.wolfevideo.com

For movie buffs in search of all types of queer video, Wolfe Video is for you. It's perfect for planning one of my favorite activities, a lesbian movie night. Wolfe is on top of the new releases, with items such as *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, Rose Troche's new film *Bedrooms and Hallways*, and many others. Wolfe is also your best source for softer erotic videos like *Such a Crime* and *Hey Sailor, Hey Sister*. From *Rocky Horror* to Lily Tomlin, Wolfe has it on video and DVD. Pay by check or credit card, and you can order their print catalog from the site. **rkb**

www.suspectthoughts.com

Suspect Thoughts is a new quarterly Webzine started by Greg Wharton. Each issue has about 10 stories from accomplished writers such as Susannah Indigo and M. Christian. The stories veer from dark to extremely dark, and come with sharp illustrations by David Aronson. These writings are perfect for horror fans or those looking for erotica with a twist. "Harder" and "The Professor's Education," both extremely hot gay male SM stories, got me going. If you're looking for the underbelly of sex, the dark, dirty, and possibly revolting, try Suspect Thoughts. **rkb**

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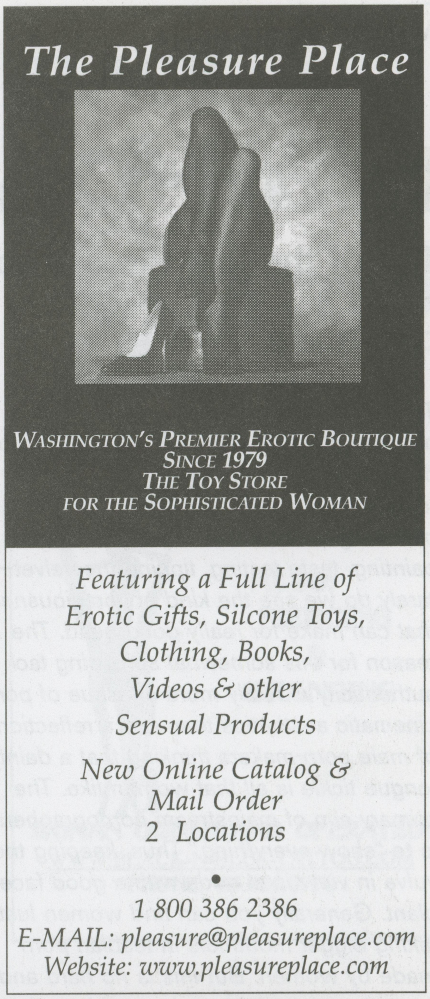

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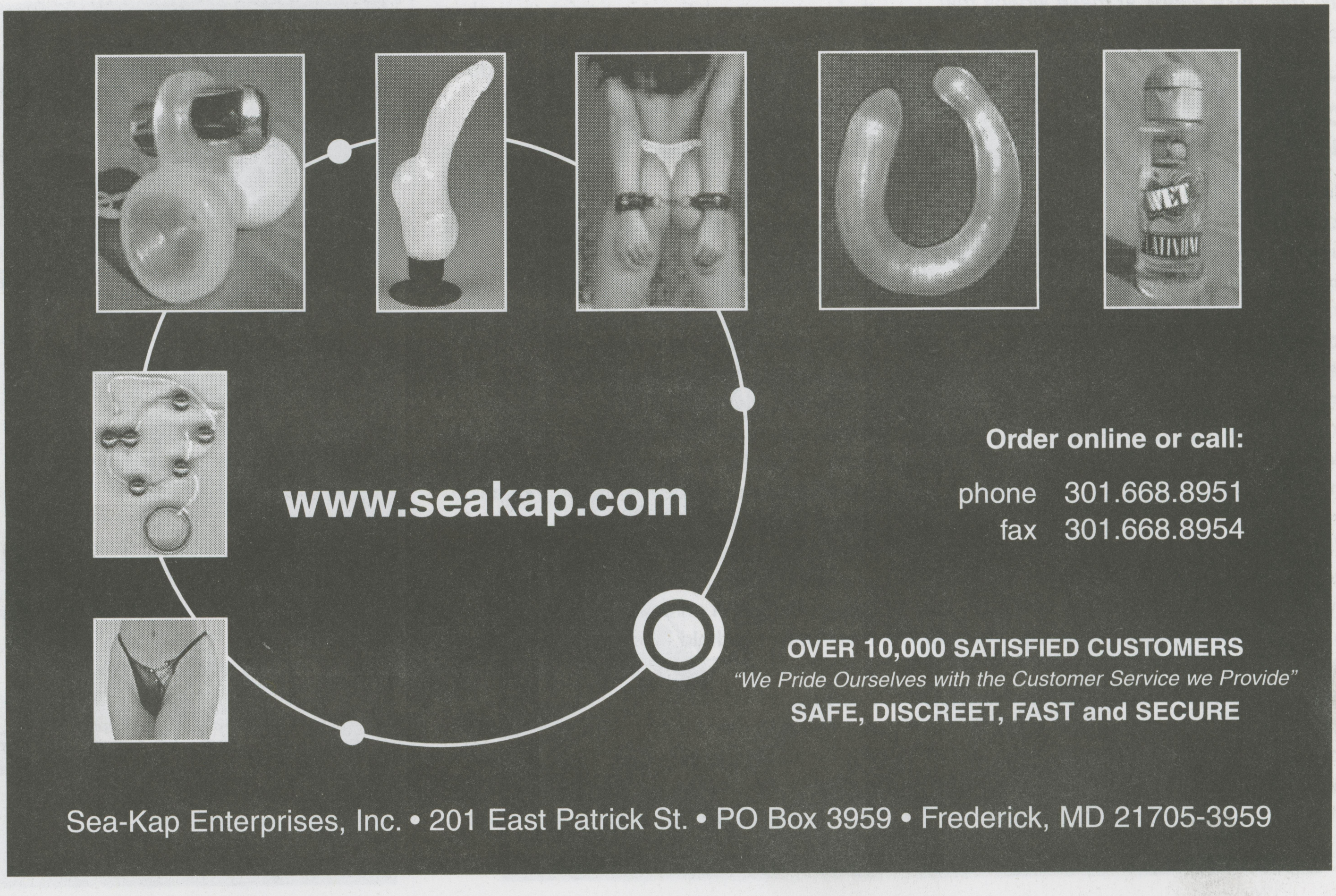

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Muff-Diving Porn

Top of the line tongue action

by Laura Weide

Think "girl-girl rug munching" in blue movies. What do you see? The stereotype of cunnilingus in porn is taloned starlets tentatively tapping the tips of their pretty pink tongues on claw-ringed clits. Fence painting, taste testing, tipping the velvet–rarely do we see the kind of voraciousness that can make for really good head. The reason for this somewhat surprising lack of authenticity is really more an issue of porn cinematic aesthetics than it is a reflection of male porn-makers thinking that a dainty tongue tickle is all that women like. The primary aim of mainstream pornographers is to "show everything." Thus, keeping the vulva in view is at odds with a good face plant. Generally you can find women lustily taking bigger mouthfuls in lesbian porn made by women. But this is no hard and fast rule; take a look at these videos that feature notable oral sex scenes.

The 4 Finger Club #2

[New Sensations, 1999]

No plot, but wall-to-wall action. Each vignette features two porn stars working in as many fingers as are legal in all 50 states. While not every scene will burn the crotch out of your panties, you'll find some scorching fucking and sucking. The second scene, sex on the pool table, gets my nomination for Tonguing Hall of Fame. Here a multiple-pierced and lingually-talented porn star goes down on an amazed Sydney Steele. What can I say? It's erotic and educational to watch her work those glittering silver balls underneath Sydney's clit hood, along her vestibule and in and out of her vaginal opening. The operative word in this video is *nasty*–actresses use spit for lube, moan a lot, and talk a blue streak. The final scene climaxes with a squirty orgasmic response to a Crystal Wand. There are a few scenes where the women being penetrated don't appear to be ready for all four fingers, and penetration with long nails give's me the willies (no offense, my high-femme sisters–just tellin' it how I see it). But I was pleasantly surprised to find so many charged performances in this video.

bottom line . Lot's of nasty sex and raw tongue action.

The Player

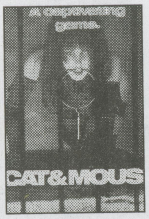
[Vivid, 1994]

"You got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em.." Card sharks fuck and gamble their way through this mostly heterosexual skin flick. Asia Carrera and Janine steal the show as secret lovers with a stellar extended oral scene in a sauna. Both of these women are competent actors, and the sweetness of their onscreen relationship carries through in the emotional pace of the sex.

bottom line . Janine and Asia Carrera add star power to this one.

Cat & Mouse

[X-citement Video, 1992]



Jeanna Fine is the most fantastically articulate smut mouth in porn. Her husky voice, bossy demeanor, and snarly, powerful orgasms have earned her demigod status in the skin-flick world. Her magnificent oral sex performance (in both senses of the term) catapults this video to the top of my list of personal favorites. Perpetrating home invasion of the sexual type, she stalks family men in the burbs, talking dirty to them on the phone and then showing up at their houses with her kitten in crime. Jeanna demands that "Bob" blindfold his wife and lead her to the bedroom, and as Bob watches in stupefied tumescence, Jeanna nibbles, licks, sucks, and (after the blindfold comes off) talks the lady of the house into multiple orgasms. A nice couple from the neighborhood show up at the door and are drawn into group sex with Fine directing all the action. The well-written script keeps authentic female pleasure at its core in this story of middle-class convention turned upside down.

bottom line . Good bet for porn noir freaks.

Where the Boys Aren't #6

[Vivid, 1995]

This all-girl sex romp directed by Ernest Greene is a bit weak in plot, but delivers hot sex, impressive porn-star acrobatics, and lots of orgasms. A bevy of porn stars, including Janine, Julia Ann, Sarah Jane Hamilton, Jeanna Fine, and Amber Lynn, belong to an exclusive women's club. The plot revolves around a somewhat confusing wager; Janine has bet that Amber and Jeanna couldn't stay together for a year, and their anniversary is at midnight. Jeanna Fine gets a 9.9 for her double penetration scene as the brunette cream in the middle of a blonde confection. The extended group sex scene at the end features multiple combinations of adept tongue and hand action and strap-ons ending in a lovely splash from the refreshingly curvy Sarah Jane.

bottom line . Ignore the plot and enjoy the frenzied all-girl action.

Dam It!

A few stellar movies that shed light on the eternal question "How can dental-dammed sex feel good?" deserve mention here. Shar Rednour rims and sucks at a delighted glitter girl through a Glyde dam in the must-see *How to Fuck in High Heels* (S.I.R. Video, 2000). *Well Sexy Women* (Pride Video Productions, 1993) still offers the most comprehensive lesbian safe sex information, which brackets sexy vignettes. Frameline Videos showcases artistic safe sex shorts in *She's Safe* (Frameline, 1993) including an Annie Sprinkle scene with notable dam action.

bottom line . Safe can still be fun.

Laura Weide has talked with thousands of women about porn during her years working at Good Vibrations and while showing her lesbian porn clip show around the world. If your organization is interested in hosting a showing in your town, please contact her at lib_4all@hotmail.com.

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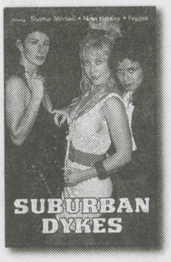

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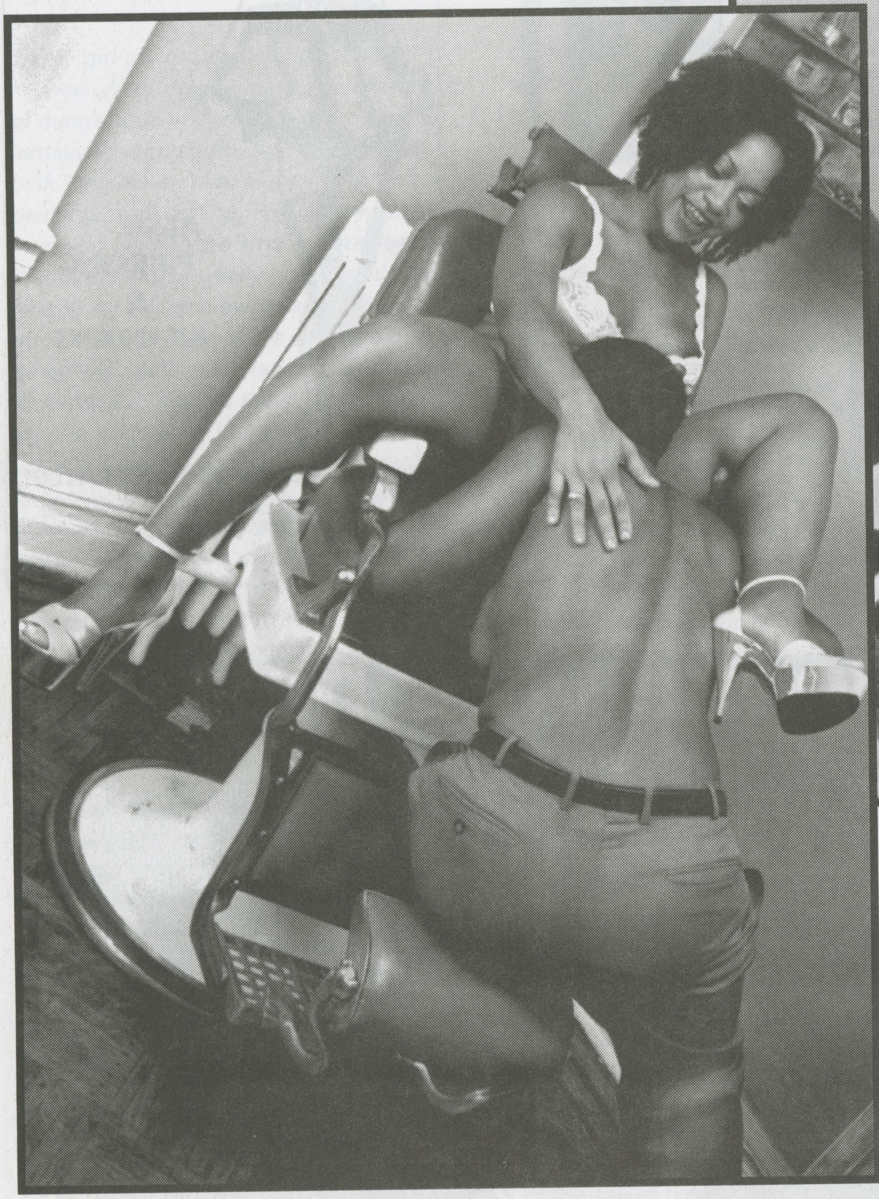
a close shave

Brooks & Nigia get all lathered up



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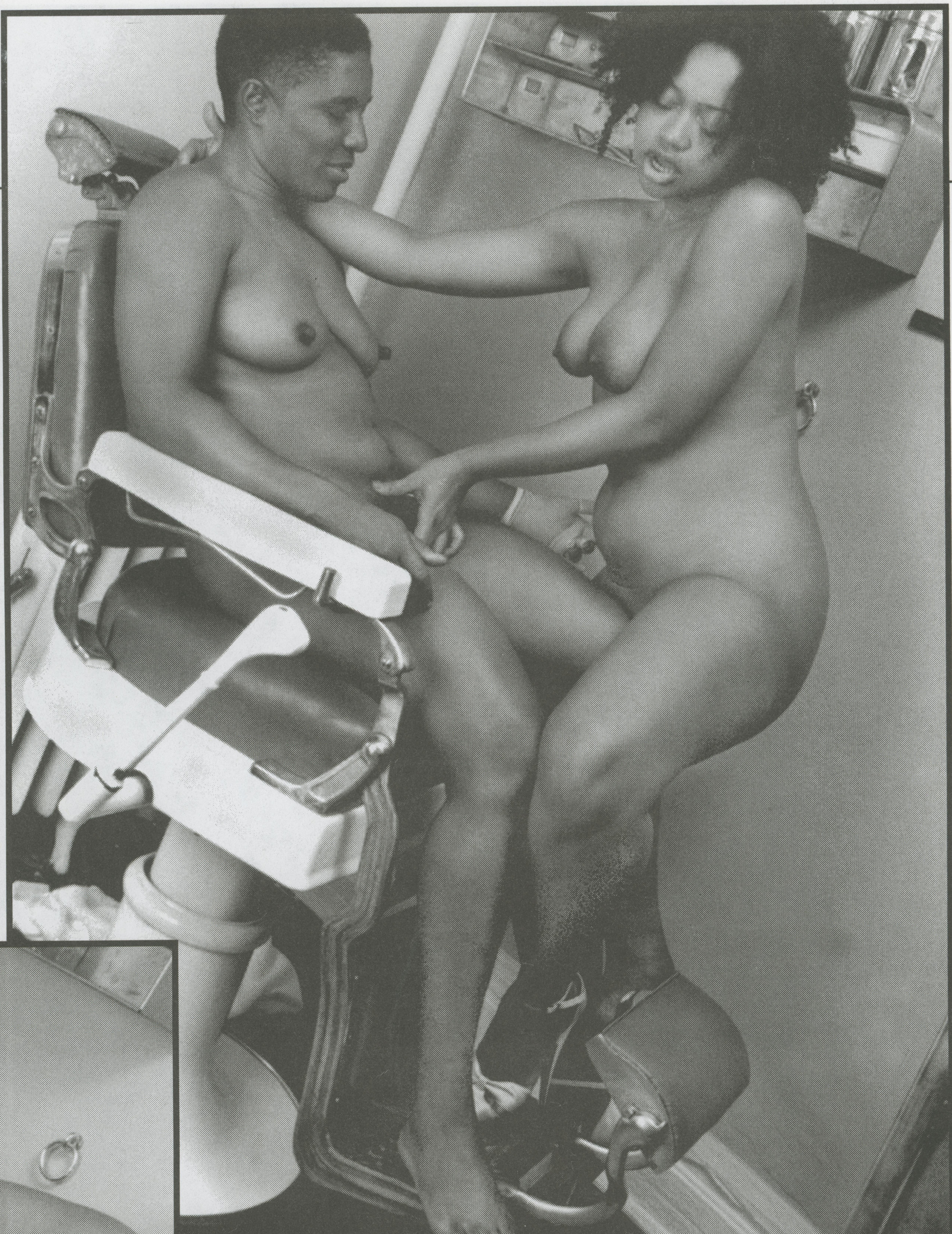

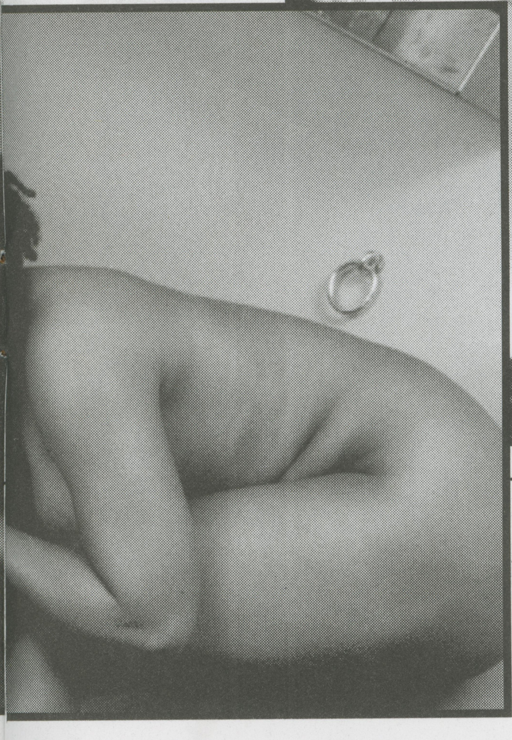

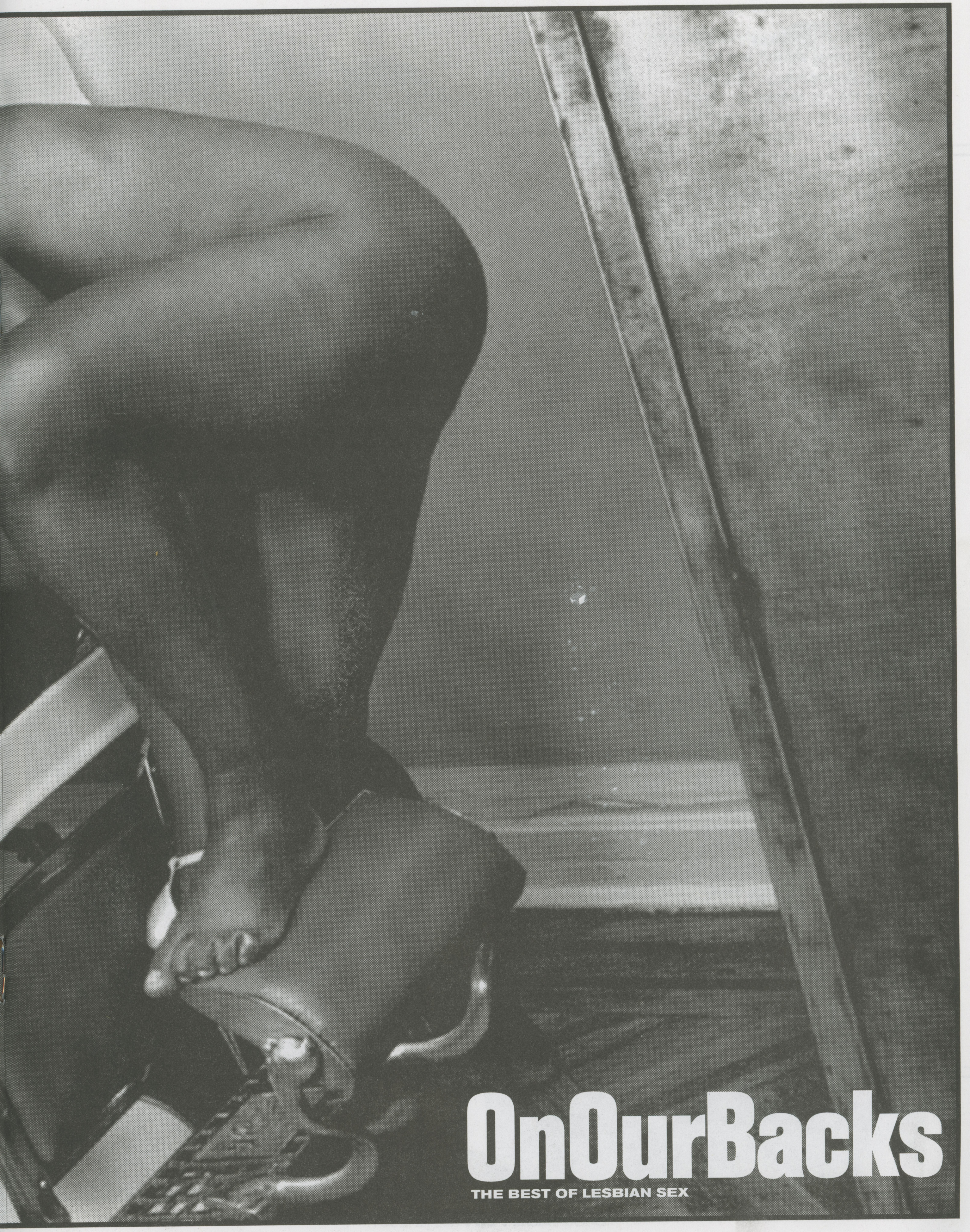

OnOurBacks

THE BEST OF LESBIAN SEX

To celebrate her birthday, Nigia wanted to have her pussy shaved, and the handsome Brooks was just the butch barber for the job. Brooks got her all lathered up as she went to work with the sharp razor, revealing more of Nigia's luscious pussy with each stroke. Nigia rubbed her smooth cunt and swollen clit against Brooks's leg. Brooks couldn't resist inspecting her handiwork with her tongue and fingers. As the two explored each other's bodies, Nigia kissed Brooks passionately, ready to spend all evening showing her appreciation for a very close shave. **tt**

Beyond Monogamy

Six Women Explore Polyamory

compiled by Deborah Addington

Like polyamory itself, this discussion is a collage of people, terms, lovers, concepts, and practices. Polyamory runs the gamut from fuck-buddy facilitation to multiple committed partnerships. To define polyamory in detail would be to limit its scope; instead, we discussed how polyamory functions as a framework in which to evolve and create loving, healthy relationships. Each woman on this panel does poly differently, which is as it should be. No two persons' needs are identical, nor are their practices in getting their needs met. Sex is not an ingredient in polyamory: it's the cake you get to eat after slaving in a hot kitchen.

How do you define polyamory? What are other key terms essential to the discussion of this intricate issue?

Alesia: Polyamory is the willingness to engage in responsible romantic or intimate relationships with more than one person at a time. It is distinguished from "cheating" in that honesty and communication among partners is essential.

April: Polyamory is the desire and ability to form multiple intimate relationships which remain open to any desired expression. I have a diverse collection of amazing arrangements and non-arrangements with my most intimate friends.

Jackie: I don't really like the word *polyamory* when discussing my sex and love life. I am a very emotionally monogamous person, so the word's semantics hold no water for me when defining my lust and libido. My partner and I are in a very deeply committed relationship with each other, very much each other's primary. We call ourselves nonmonogamous or, more tongue-in-cheek, we reclaim the word *swingers*.

Deborah: Polyamory means that there's more than enough of me, others, and all the good stuff to go around. I'm not afraid that I won't get my share, take someone else's, or lose the good stuff I already have. It means a bountiful world, filled with everything I could possibly want, accessible to me at all times. Poly is the ultimate combo rush of personal empowerment and pleasure.

Janet: I'm not all that enthralled with the word *polyamory* as it's currently used—often, it's used to mean only multipartner ongoing committed romantic relationships, and to exclude other valid relationship patterns such as fuck-buddy circles, casual sex, swinging, etc. Still, *poly* is the closest term to my own pattern, which is to try to be open to whatever relationship possibilities present themselves, from a lifelong love to an absolutely transcendent one-night stand.

Shar: *Polyamory?* I like the term all right, but it doesn't ring strong for me. It's not sharp enough. I inevitably use created words like *polylustfun, multisex,* or *multilust.* Recently, we've been using *swinger* even though it used to be heterosexist and referred mostly to wife-swappers. We're reclaiming that word for the sexual excursions we share, because they tend to be orgies dripped in indulgence with decadent paraphernalia strewn about.

The definition of polyamory seems tied by the common thread of having more than one significant source of intimacy, whether that intimacy is physical, emotional, mental, or "other." Why choose a high-maintenance arrangement like polyamory? What makes it worth the communication and effort required?

Janet: I rarely choose a simple path when a complex one will do. I think I just have a very low threshold for boredom. Why be intimate with only one person when you can be intimate with several, when you can experience the cerebral and emotional massage of being inside the barriers of two or more wonderful, exciting people (and having them inside yours)? I've been monogamous: I didn't like it.

Jackie: Polyamory is not high maintenance to me. Yes, you must be emotionally accountable, present, honest, and extremely reverential, but for me, that's the only way to live.

Shar: Poly does require effort, but no more than any relationship. The big difference is that the language and sympathies for poly are few. With monogamists, if a spouse cheats or jealousy occurs, it can be discussed in the lunchroom cafeteria as loud as you want. If you're poly, then it's all hushed tones spoken to blank, astonished faces. Being honestly monogamous would be a lie of spirit, putting my passion and life in a cage for no damn good reason. How could I not be poly? It's natural. People getting to be their true selves and really shine is worth the work.

> we're reclaiming the word **swingers** for the sexual **excursions** we share, because they tend to be **orgies** dripped in **indulgence**.

April: What I find to be of higher maintenance is keeping a healthy relationship in general. An interesting contrast I've seen between monogamists and polyamorists is that the polyamorists I know are much more inclined to maintain healthy relationships. I find that the only really tough part of polyamory is being interested in someone who has difficulty seeing poly as valid, or someone who sees it as a possibility but requires a lot of emotional growth in order to achieve a healthy practice.

Deborah: Everyone else seems to think that poly isn't "high" maintenance. Hell yes, it's more demanding, if in no other aspect than the quantity of people with whom I interact. If I wasn't poly, I'd probably have a lot more free time on my hands. Fucking might be something that "just happens," but polyamory is not.

Some things are sacred, be they the bed one shares with one's partner, personal space, a middle name, the toy collection, the words "I love you," or some other item of intimacy. What is sacred to you, to your partner(s), and why?

Alesia: In my life, the Divine is a very personal, very intimate force, and It is constantly expressing Itself everywhere. I am sacred, an expression of divine power and love, and as such I have taken a vow to treat myself reverently in all things, not just love relationships. Those with whom I have engaged in relationship are in holy communion with me, and I with them—not only when we're soaking mattresses, either.

Deborah: My body is mine, and mine alone; I share it with whom I will. Stuff I put in my body is sacred; I have my toys and share toys. Beds are sacred, but my bed—like my body—is my business. Promises are sacred. That's why I almost never make them. My word is my bond, and I don't give my word unless I'm as certain as possible that I can keep it. Other than that, all bets are on.

Jackie: The vows my wife and I said to each other when we got married, total self-knowledge, honesty, and certain sexual fantasies, practices, and positions are sacred. SM-type roleplaying, communication, and negotiation skills come in handy to keep things in a very clear perspective when it comes to others. Of course, we're intimate with others and can be lovey-dovey and sweet, but there are places that don't have to be shared with every single person that waltzes into your life.

Shar: The first sacred thing that comes to mind is time. Our individual time and our time with each other is sacred. We no longer fuck just anyone. People who don't have their shit together, those who are messy or energy vampires can be a fantastic fuck and I don't care. I'm already married to the best fuck in the world so that's not what appeals to me.

Janet: Some of our "only for each other" stuff is BDSM-ish: neither of us wears anyone else's collar, neither of us calls anyone else "mistress" or "master." Also, I have strong feelings about the specialness of sleeping together—by which I don't mean the euphemism for "fucking"; I mean actually sleeping together in the same bed. We don't do sleepovers: if we're in the same city, we sleep in the same bed.

Is jealousy a given in poly situations? When do you first notice the symptoms of jealousy? How do you deal with it?

Janet: Jealousy is always a sign: it tells me that there's something about myself I don't believe is lovable, or something that I believe I'm losing which I don't feel that I can afford to lose. Same goes if I'm feeling deprived of something I believe I should have. How do I deal with it? I live with it. Who says I get to feel happy all the time? I do my best not to let it shred me or cause unfair problems to my partners or their relationships. Then, I live with it, and it usually goes away after a while.

Alesia: Jealousy is a given in any relationship situation. It isn't just a poly problem! If someone tries to tell you they have never and don't ever experience jealousy, they are either the next incarnation of Jesus Christ or trying to pull the wool over your eyes. To deal with jealousy, I go within, call the jealous feelings out on the carpet and subject them to the third degree. If the answers indicate to me that I've got some healing work to do on myself, then it becomes my priority to deal with that.

Shar: Jealousy is absolutely not a given in poly situations. People generally don't work on jealousy because it's socially sanctioned, so why should they? I learned to be firm, direct in communication yet unafraid, to listen to emotions without me having to do anything about them. I learned how to be very specific in my communication and not

continued on page 42

The Participants

April Cooper lives in beautiful Northern California with her two children. She is currently employed as a training specialist for an Internet and e-commerce technical support outsourcing firm. She is Jewish, bisexual, kinky, modern-primitive, a sensualist and an artist/writer.

Reverend Alesia Matson, of the Church of the New Renaissance, is a bi/poly/stealth-kinky femme who has sustained up to five intimate relationships at one time, but currently maintains her het marriage and female lovers. Actively poly for 16 years, she and her husband founded their church to support individual spirituality and alternative lifestyles.

Janet Hardy is a bi poly switch. As "Catherine A. Liszt" and "Lady Green," she has authored or co-authored seven books about sexuality and BDSM; her latest (with Dossie Easton) is *When Someone You Love Is Kinky*. She is the mother of two young adult sons, and the president of Greenery Press.

Deborah Addington is the author of *A Hand in the Bush: The Fine Art of Vaginal Fisting*; she also teaches, freelances, and writes poetry. She is queer, poly, identifies as a hard, high femme and is sometimes referred to as "Tall, Dark & Perforated."

Jackie Strano is a 35-year-old butch dyke living in San Francisco. She fronts The Hail Marys, an all-dyke hard rock band, and co-operates S.I.R. Video Productions with her wife, Shar Rednour. Together they created the best-selling *Bend Over Boyfriend* series and the dyke porn *Hard Love & How To Fuck In High Heels*.

Shar Rednour is a 33-year-old femme dyke living in San Francisco. She is the author of *The Femme's Guide to the Universe* from Alyson Books. With Strano, she runs S.I.R. Video Productions.

Her Dangerous Desires

Amber Hollibaugh proves she's still rollin' around in bed

by Tristan Taormino

photography by Michele Serchuk

Amber Hollibaugh is one of the most important lesbian icons of our time. Her identities are as complex, colorful, and courageous as her ideas: she's a sex-radical feminist, a high-femme dyke, a former prostitute, an incest survivor, a poor white-trash Gypsy, a Left political organizer, and an award-winning writer and filmmaker. Gay historian Allan Bérubé calls her "a brilliant activist intellectual from trailer park America." Her first and only book, My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home *(Duke University Press) collects 20 years of her writings on such diverse topics as stone butches, lesbians with AIDS, femme identity politics, sex work, and sex wars.* **On Our Backs** *sat down with this 54-year-old blond bombshell to talk about her intense love of butches, her femme secrets, and the pleasures and dangers of making trouble and taking risks.*

On Our Backs: "What We're Rollin' Around in Bed With," your conversation with Cherríe Moraga in 1980, is one of your most well-known pieces. Even though it's not really presented in an academic way, I think it's a critical piece of theory for butch/femme. What are your thoughts on the evolution of butch/femme two decades later?

Amber Hollibaugh: I think butch/femme was always much more complex and diverse than what it was generally reduced to. The ways that people tried to think it through and live it out and the contradictions of falling in love with complicated partners who didn't quite match up–I mean, all of those things were much more *in* butch/femme life than is generally accorded it. What has happened is that younger women who have been brought out through both feminism and theoretical gender issues have appropriated a lot of the stuff they learned from that earlier cultural world of butch/femme, and then they've taken it places that are extraordinary and different and, in my opinion, fabulous.

But the core issues of how you think about yourself in terms of your gender identity, and how you partner, are as complicated as they ever were. They're not any more answered by post-postmodern queer theory than they were in the fifties when butch/femme was very codified and it was difficult to step outside it. There have been a lot of changes, a lot of things that are passionately, beautifully unexplored and new that are really remarkable. But it's not easy to be a butch or a femme, however it's constructed. It's not easy internally and it's not easy in the world. It's difficult to find the ways that you want to make love. It's difficult to find the people that you want to make love with. It's difficult to understand your own sexual and erotic imagination. That isn't any more easy, regardless of whether you've come through queer theory or you haven't.

OOB: You're so passionate about butch/femme relationships in your book, and one of my favorite lines is, "When I found butch/femme, it was like rediscovering my heart through my cunt." You also talk about your femme identity in a very conscious way. Tell me how butch/femme can be so visceral, and at the same time so intellectual for you.

AH: In this conversation about butch/femme, there's always been an idea that butch is constructed. Butches go out and find men's clothes, butches have BVDs, butches have cocks, butches construct masculinity. But it always appeared as though femininity, the feminine partner, was a natural thing. Like we were just girls skipping along and we tripped and fell into the arms of this woman who turned out to be a man who was a

Hollibaugh: sex war survior and femme pioneer

woman. How interesting for us, and we were just like normal people. I think this is ridiculous, and it's not how I feel about what *I* do. I don't think there's anything normal or natural about gender, period. I think everybody constructs it. It's important for femme to be seen, for some of us at least, as a constructed identity, in the same way as it is for butches. I'm not interested in normal; I don't think sexuality flows because of normalcy. It flows because you figure out what the erotic explosions are that you hook into. Then you try and figure out how to make that work for you. For me, that's butch/femme. I like very much being self-conscious about how I'm a femme. I don't want to be a femme in a thoughtless way—I chose this. This is really about who I am. That means I pick what parts I want and I discard the parts I don't want. And one of the luxuries of being queer is that I don't have to worry about being normal. I've already gone way over that edge, and I take real seriously the fact that I get to play with gender. I think one of the privileges of queer life, if you survive the oppression, is that you don't believe in gender in the same way. Or at least you have the possibility of not believing in it in the same way and yet being able to use it erotically. To me that looks like the best of both worlds.

OOB: You have managed to snag some of the hottest butches of our time—what are your femme secrets?
AH: [Laughs] A lot of the women that I've been with are women that have both been attractive to many femmes and frightening to them at the same time. The difference between me and a lot of the femmes that I know is that I wasn't scared of the women that I wanted. I really was not afraid to go after the women that I thought were beautiful, passionate, fabulous, interesting women. And I did it at a time when often they were not treated that way. I mean, not Esther [Newton], not Leslie [Feinberg], not the first butch I ever went with—they were treated very badly. They may now have become icons in a certain sense but the reality of their lives was that they were treated very badly for being so butch or so out there. And I loved them for it. Once I had come to terms with myself about being a femme, I thought no one is ever going to stop me again, or I'm not going to stop myself, from recognizing and acting on the women that I desire. And if somebody gets in my way, I'll kill them. I've paid too high a price for it and so have the women that I am attracted to. The one gift that we can absolutely give to each other is to believe that we are beautiful and worthwhile and worth knowing. And that's what I've gotten from those women, and that's what I've given back.

OOB: One of the dedications in the book is to your current lover: "To Jenifer Levin, who found me in a dark hospital room and captured my heart." What's the story behind that?
AH: It's an incredible story, actually. Jen and I have known each other for years. We didn't know each other well, but we'd both been around for a long time. About five years ago, I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and I almost died. I was in the hospital for a month, and it was really pretty horrifying. I was going through an incredible crisis, I was really in despair. Jen came to visit me, and she sat down on the bed, gave me a rose, and said, "I just came to tell you one thing. You can't die, because women like you made it possible for women like me to be alive." And it changed everything that happened to me after that moment, because I realized that what I had done in my own life around being a femme had *really* mattered, not just to the individual women that I had loved, but to women that I didn't know well at all. It was such a remarkable thing to say to me.

OOB: Wow. Well, I think Jenifer might agree with me when I say you're a troublemaker. One of the reasons you're so successful in your AIDS activism is that you refuse to dance around explicit sexual discussion where other people do. In feminism, you're loud about being queer. In the lesbian community, you mouth off about class and sex work, two of the most provocative, touchy subjects among dykes. So my question is: what is the most trouble you've ever caused? And what's the best?
AH: I'll tell you the downside and the upside. The downside is that when I came out around doing sex work—I'd been pretty open about it, but quietly, for a long time—then I started writing for the *Women's Review of Books*. I felt like feminists pretended as though there was no one that was authentically feminist and authentically sex worker. Someone in the oppositional movement—that I will always suspect was Women Against Pornography, but I can't prove—sent all the writing I had done about being a sex worker to my parents. This is what people are always terrified of when they do sex work, that once you've crossed that line, it will follow you forever and you'll never ever get away from it. My parents did not know that I had done sex work, and they were devastated. And I didn't get to tell them, they heard it in another way. It reminded me in an important way what the price is for telling the truth sometimes. And sometimes we don't pay enough attention to that, but in fact, when you make trouble, you've really got to think about the possible ramifications of that trouble.

i'm not interested in **normal**; i don't think **sexuality flows** because of **normalcy**.

The best part of being a troublemaker is the friends you make. My friendships with Dorothy Allison and Joan Nestle and Chrystos and Jewelle Gomez came out of the sex wars and the fights surrounding them. We had each other's back. We were not gonna let each other go down alone, because we really didn't know where those fights would end. It wasn't clear that we were gonna be allowed to be in our own movement. So the very best part of it was finding women with that kind of fortitude, that kind of bravery, that kind of intelligence, that kind of humor.

OOB: I feel very strongly that the strides that were made by the women's movement, and

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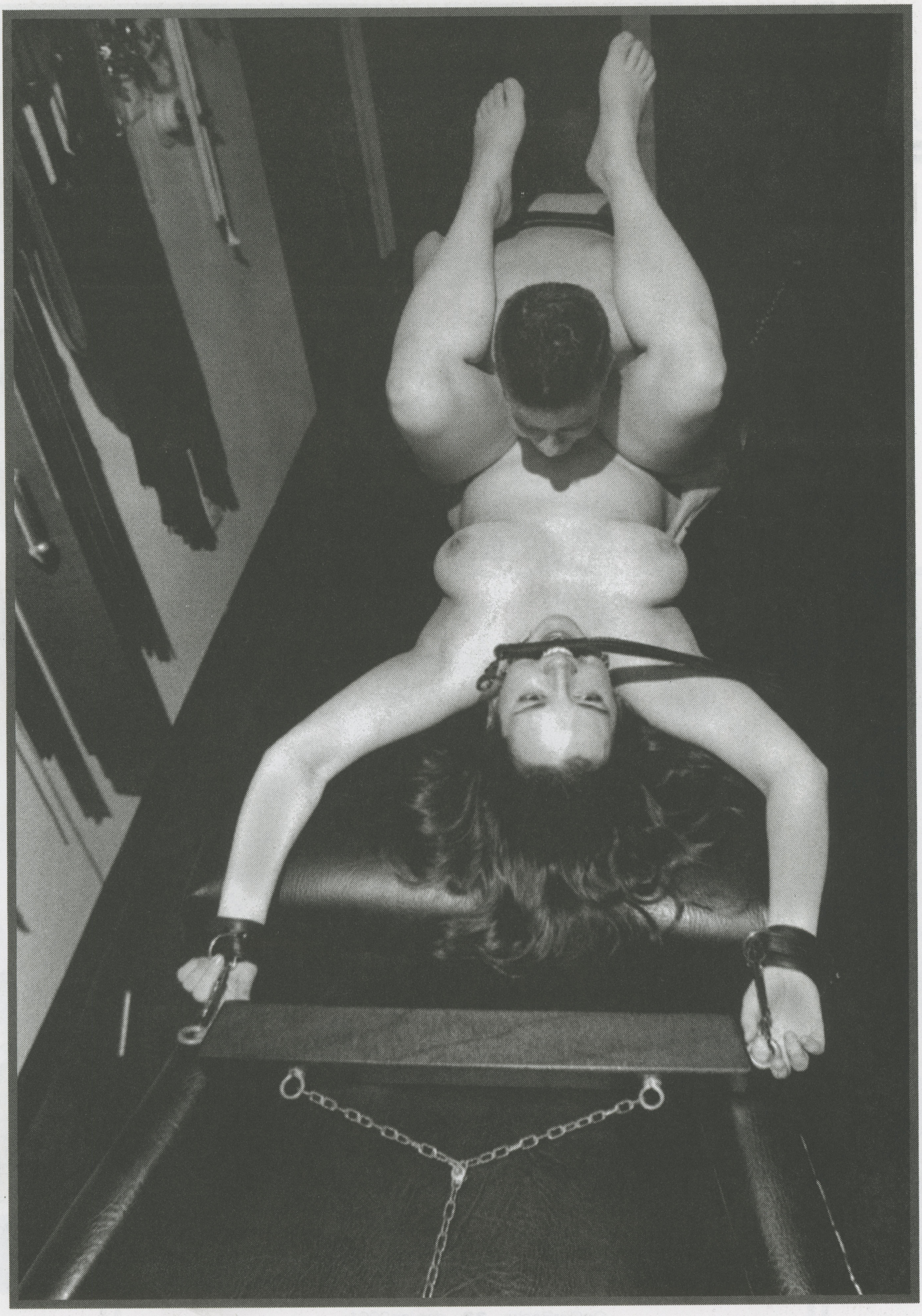
Lust on a Leash

Master J.P. puts frisky sex slave Heather in her place

photography by
Janet Ryan

As a surprise for their anniversary, J.P. reserved The Dungeon for a special evening with her girlfriend, Heather. J.P. fastened a collar around Heather's neck to signal the girl's role as her sex slave.

After tying her spread-eagle to a bondage bed, J.P. stroked Heather's beautiful ass and fucked her till she screamed.



Then J.P. locked her slave in a cage, tormenting and teasing Heather until she begged for release.

She got it–in the form of J.P.'s fist in her hungry pussy.

sex**HALL**

by MR Daniel • illustration by Leanne Franson

The hallway is narrow. I had expected it to be less bare–there are no pictures on the walls, which have all been painted dark reds, slick mahoganies and purples. I laugh to myself. The colored girls must have had fun checking out swollen pussies when they were painting this. The lights are sunk deep into the ceiling and turned down low so it's lit like a club. A house diva is wailing through the P.A. system, backed up by an insistent fuck-me-baby, fuck-me-baby tempo. I feel as though I am in a peep-show.

Brown, bronze, and various sun-kissed women move past me, some with their eyes straight forward, nervous, others whose eyes seem to burn a path before them. I can feel their heat as they pass. There is a steady pulsing below my skin as I move forward, the current stopping and starting, and I'm feeling the blood push-flow-push-flow through my neck and fingers, my heart growing, forcing blood into my breasts. I pass the first doorway and hesitate. The door is open but I am suddenly afraid to be caught looking.

Someone behind me stops to look over my shoulder, and her fingers inquire at my leg. I can feel her questions all the way up my thigh into my stomach. I almost jump into the room, and there is laughter behind me. I catch my breath, surprised at my confusion. This morning I was so sure of what I wanted, what I felt, but now…Excitement? Pleasure? Fear?

Didn't I want to be fucked from behind, anonymous?

A voice in my ear saying, "Look forward, baby, or I'll leave."

And, "I know you're wet."

And, "When I remember how you look I'm going to think about parting your bush, how you *almost* reached behind to guide my hands. But I told you not to move. *Don't move*."

Hiking up skirt, pulling down panties, the snap of a glove and a hand between my legs. Fucked in a doorway. Fingers up my cunt, feeling the space in my flesh, pushing deeper and rubbing 'til there's this cross between a sharpness and pleasure, my muscles filled with blood, taut, filling and pressing until I think I'm going to pee on the floor.

My mouth is filled with stars and they're burning their way through my vagina. They hurl through my chest and I can't breathe, sweat collects in the band of my skirt. They light up nerves, sending shocks to my clit and behind my eyelids. I hear myself salivate as she works her hand in further; I pant, my cunt pants for her and the feeling of stars.

I am high, nipples sharp from the sound of her inside me. I am straining against damp fabric, pores fucked alert, open, wanting to feel air on sweat and oil-steeped skin as I brace myself in the doorway.

Bodies passing by us go quiet as another finger goes in my puckering ass, tilted to receive, and lips circle my neck, her tongue leaving a trail that ends with a mouth clamped on the back of my throat, kissing, sucking hard, until a half-moon appears. I wanna come bad, but I could stay here forever.

Can you fuck too much? Can you feel too good? Can you be so ripe that you keep bursting and swelling, bursting and swelling, until a mouth bites you open again? Her teeth burn into my ass, she whips the hand out of my cunt and I feel the air leave my chest, my breasts suddenly get heavy and full. Her hand spanks my ass, my skin wet and hot, and enters me again like horses. I swear I'm gonna drop to my knees as the finger in my ass moves back and forth, teasing the rim of my anus. I feel myself coming, raging against the horses, grasping them, expelling-thrusting them out as they lunge-push further inside. She holds onto me; "that hand isn't going anywhere," she says.

I feel come like hushed spurts, warm like blood, flowing out of me. I'm on my knees, my unconscious fingers take her horse-hand, arching as I pull her out of me, and rub her against my lips and clit. I feel like a dog, mouth open and bent-over, writhing against her hand, I'm not thinking anymore, just doing what feels good. She doesn't pull away. I come again, air passes through my throat and I hear a sound like the last breath as you break the surface of water. Doubled over, breathing hard, I pull away from the finger in my ass and pass her other hand from between my legs. I lick my juice from her glove, and pull the latex off. My tongue dives for the skin in between her fingers. This is how I will remember her, by her hands. She helps me up from behind, pulling up my panties stretched and tangled in my boots, her fingers spread wide feeling me up as she pulls my skirt down.

She bites my neck and says, "It's too bad you came early," and rubs her pelvis against the crack of my behind. I can feel her packing. Well, I'm sorry, too.

"Next time," she says, her hands firm on my hips, teasing, pressing into, circling against me, slowly. "It's underneath my black vinyl shorts, it peeks through a little cause they're short-shorts like the ones the reggae dancehall queens wear. Zippers up the sides, I only wear them here."

"How do you know you're the only one?" I ask. She can't see me smile.

"Well, if I'm not, we'll find out soon enough," she laughs, and bites the half-moon she left before. I listen to her walk away.

Boots, I guess, with heavy soles.

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Confession

by Amy Barber + Gina Chopp • illustration by Deon Allen

Just as I was regretting my lack of resistance about being dragged to church, the priest, forehead beading with sweat, launched into his predictable sermon about the ever-virgin Mary. Not that I wasn't grateful for a homily that strayed from the usual praise of Catholic patriarchy, but I found it difficult to look up to a woman whose unwanted pregnancy was chalked up to the heavens–a celestial miracle. The only miracle I could gather was that Joseph and millions of other "believers" were gullible enough to buy the story. If only it had been so easy to convince my mother that the moans she heard coming from my bedroom when Karen spent the night were bedtime prayers.

If it had been any other Sunday, not Mother's Day, I probably would have refused to come along, much less be coerced into wearing khaki pants and a stuffy collared shirt. I could tell that the May heat was draining energy out of everyone in the crowded church. I glanced around at a sea of parishioners half-heartedly fanning themselves with hymnals. At least those were good for something.

Staring past my grandmother and mother to count the panes on the stained-glass window for the third time, I noticed a girl who looked as bored and tired as I was. Until then, I assumed I was the only one accustomed to the typical college routine, which did not include waking up early enough for 11 o'clock mass. Maybe it was the knee-high socks and plaid skirt that had initially allowed me to dismiss her as a God-fearing goody two-shoes. Sorority types had never made for hot fantasies in lecture, let alone eye candy at mass. But the roll of her eyes as they met with mine was the first indication that my original impression was mistaken.

Discovering an ally amidst the plethora of churchgoers inspired me to test her level of commitment to proper church etiquette. Fingering through the hymnal in my lap, I opened to a random page and remembered a game I once played with my kid sister. Borrowing the miniature-golf-sized pencil normally reserved for making welcomed last-minute church donations, I searched the page for words that would create an amusing sentence to entertain us both.

"I-want-this-to-end." Smiling at my own luck, I slid the book along the pew as everyone knelt for the blessing of the gifts. Soon she was diligently penning a message of her own, and as the congregation stood once more, she glanced at me with a look of triumph and pushed the book back along the pew. The intensity of the organ, announcing the beginning of communion, was not enough to drown out the pounding that was slowly building in my chest as a result of her reply. She sacrilegiously had circled "I-want-to-give-thanks-to-your-body."

Before I had time to analyze her response, we were waiting in line to receive the ritual intake of the body and blood of Christ, or as I prefer to call it, spiritual cannibalism. The three-person distance between us was reduced to nothing when my mother and grandmother stopped for wine.

> **"oh, god,"** she **screamed**, filling the tiny confessional with her **exclamation**.

Rounding the corner, she too noticed my position directly behind her, and this miniskirted devil raised the stakes once more. Conspicuously scratching her thigh, she simultaneously lifted her skirt just enough to reveal flesh where underwear should have been. At this moment I found the courage to catch up to her and whisper, "Keep walking." Just as Adam accepted the apple from Eve, she consented to my proposition with a backward offering of her hand, leading me to a temptation that would remain with me for eternity.

She brought me to the last of a series of confessionals and pulled me behind a thick velvet curtain. Immediately, she unfastened my belt as I anxiously slipped each button through its hole on her blouse. I parted the garment with trembling hands, exposing a sea of tanned skin. Her breasts were small, and seeing them with her complexion momentarily brought me back to summer swimming lessons in middle school. Surrounded by the tight, glistening bodies of those early crushes, I discovered for the first time that water wasn't the only thing that could make me wet.

The same bashful bliss came over me now as I blessed her exposed skin with moist kisses. She tossed the shirt aside with passion, freeing her hands to unzip my pants. Before it reached the floor, we saw the blouse drape itself over an object in the corner. We leaned in mutual curiosity toward it. Underneath sat a bottle of red wine.

"Apparently parishioners aren't the only ones with sins to confess in these booths," she smirked. Uncorking the bottle, she tilted it gently between her breasts. The rouge liquid ran in slow streams over her hard nipples.

"Not any more," I replied. The hot pressure of my tongue eagerly lapped the streams back to their origin. I felt her manicured nails dig deep in my back. Ignoring the trails of wine, my mouth made a new path to her skirt. The fingers of my right hand reached up to caress erect nipples, but instead found themselves encased in her mouth. Her teeth and tongue skillfully removed each silver ring.

"Mind if I borrow these?" she asked.

I responded by suddenly bunching her skirt above her waist while my tongue impatiently caressed the crease made by her thigh and hips. Falling to my knees, I gingerly lifted her leg toward heaven and laid it to rest on the wooden bench. Spread before me, she was swollen with excitement. Her thighs quivered with anticipation as I leaned in slowly and brushed my

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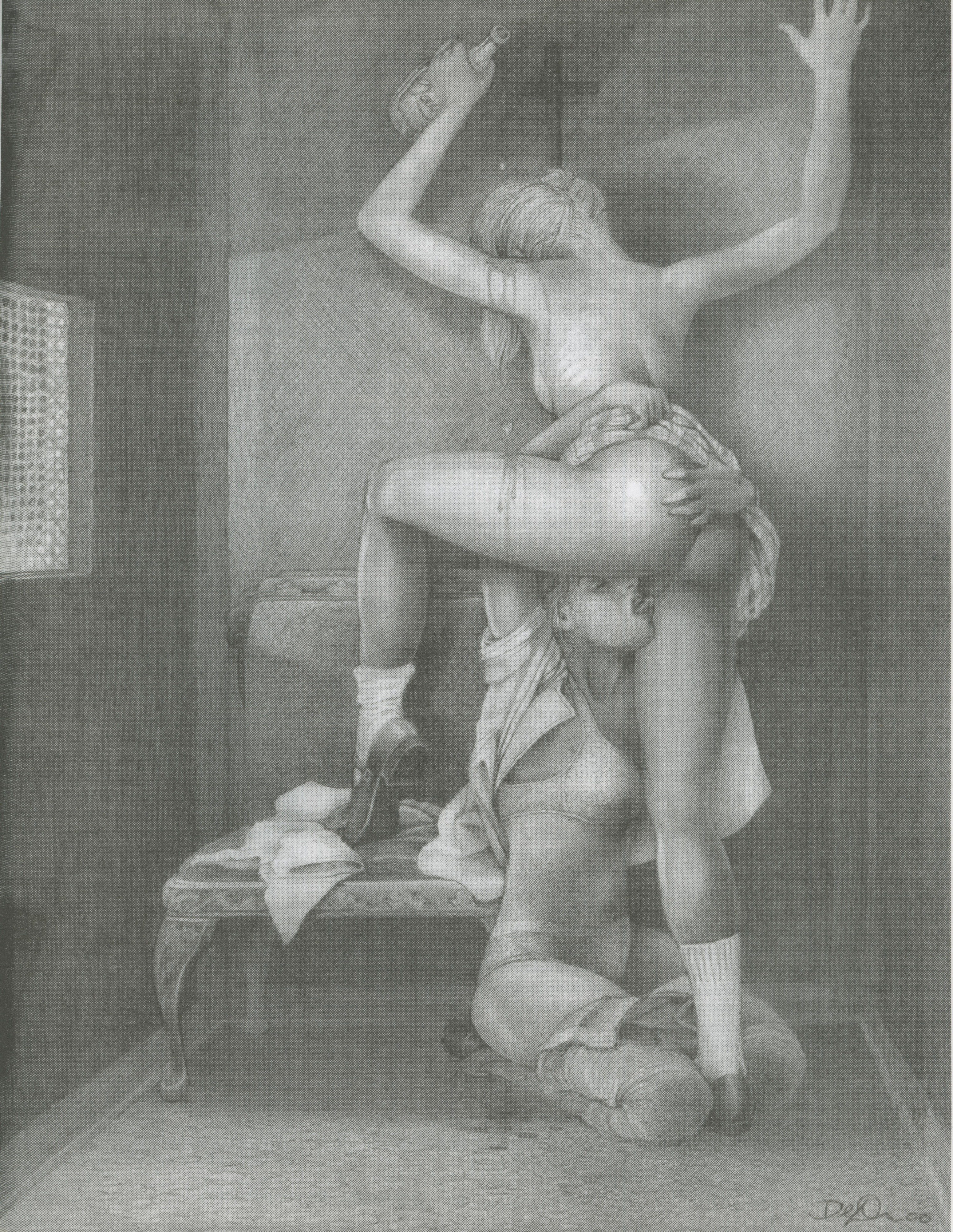
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beyond monogamy

make assumptions. I learned that it feels really good for someone to trust you and change and grow because they feel so secure.

Jackie: When I feel jealous about something I try to speak up right away, but I am self-aware enough and honest enough to know the right words to use instead of just acting out. If I feel I need more attention, I'll ask and clarify what kind of attention I need. I absolutely trust my wife 100 percent, and I know truly in my heart that she only wants the best for me and that she is totally devoted to me. That is a beautiful blessed thing that I never take for granted. I know she'll respond kindly and consider my feelings.

April: I recognize jealousy as being based in fear, and I work to find the fear that is creating that reaction. If one of us is not willing to resolve the fear, then it's time to renegotiate whether we want to be in a relationship any longer.

Any advice for the beginning polyamorist?

Alesia: For anyone considering a poly relationship: get inside your own head and your own heart and figure out what it is *you* are bringing to your relationship(s). Be aware that with each relationship you enter and begin to nurture, you are in the sacred process of creation. Be able and willing to recognize your own emotions, issues, and feelings.

Shar: To the beginning polyamorist, I say stick to your guns but don't let your freedom become a cage. I preach this one in our poly classes—make Love, Respect, and Honesty your new holy trinity. Practice being honest with yourself and practice with others; say what you know and say what you don't know. Have a sense of humor and adventure.

April: Read *The Ethical Slut*, and/or anything that will help in expanding your consciousness concerning the important aspects of practicing healthy polyamory, healthy relationships in general. Look into finding a supportive and healthy community of polys in your area, or create one.

Jackie: Be 100 percent true to yourself. Trust yourself. The right people will respond. Don't lower your standards just to get laid—fuck with true reverence even if you just met the person. Be the best person you can be and share the love!

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amber hollibaugh

the sacrifices that people like my mother made have made it possible for me, as a woman and as a dyke, to have way more choices than my mom ever had. And, likewise, the work done in the sex wars made it possible for me to exist because what I do every day, my entire life, wouldn't be possible if all this stuff didn't come before me. And so my question is, how can young dykes best honor the legacy of you and your peers?

AH: If there's anything that those of us that were fighting that fight early on wanted for other women, it was to make enough space for another group of women to be willing to be risk takers, to try things, to go places people hadn't gone before, to insist on the integrity of their own life and their own self-definition, to take on the difficulty of being powerful. If that can happen for young dykes, I hope that they don't just take what space we gave them and luxuriate in it, but they move that space farther in ways I never will, they take new steps in places I've never been, I would've never thought to go. They commit themselves to the women that are coming behind them to open up room for them.

But the other part of that is that they take on the politics of those risks. They don't just figure out a fabulous new way to fuck, they take on the politics of what that fucking means. I didn't fucking do what I'm doing just so women could have better orgasms. I mean, I hoped that would happen, but I didn't do it just for that reason. I did it because there's a lot left to be done for liberation, and if liberation isn't your goal, then frankly, I've got like maybe 15 minutes to have a conversation with you. I'm just not ready to give up and to let women's lives be small, and that includes sexuality. But I can't do it on my own. There's a whole generation of us that tried to crack through that first layer, and I think we did a pretty interesting job of it. Now there has to be another generation of women who, with the same kind of passion, take on the building of their own movement, the building of their own ideas, and the building of their own institutions, and they will not be stopped. I would be heartbroken if young dykes didn't take that ball and run with it. That would be the worst that could happen—not that it go in a direction that I didn't imagine, but that it went nowhere at all.

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confession

tongue along the tip of her clit. She shook, pulling air into her lungs with quick gasps.

Outside the confessional the organ had ceased. The heavy silence made me worry about this girl's potential to be loud. Real loud. I decided to take my chances. I rolled my tongue in circles around her clit, touching it ever so briefly after each swirl, until she whimpered. Her soft whimpering turned to moans as I danced playfully up and down her clit. Her knuckles kneading into my back, she abandoned her will to be quiet.

"Oh God," she screamed, filling the tiny confessional with her exclamation. "Please," she begged, "please go inside me." Testing my own patience, I waited until the muscles of her pussy pulsed with desire. As she opened her mouth to scream again, I easily slid two fingers past her naturally lubricated labia and watched them disappear to the knuckle. Inside her, I traced the soft tissue with the tips of my fingers, flexing them simultaneously as if I were motioning her toward me. She rocked her hips in time with my thrusts, inviting me deeper. She eagerly welcomed two more fingers, and her excitement increased when I resumed my tongue massage over her throbbing clit.

"Oh God, Oh God, Oh God," she continued, sliding her sweaty palms down the wood paneling. I increased the pressure of my tongue, pushing my fingers harder and faster. She tasted exquisite. My khakis clung damply to my crotch, and just as I was fantasizing about this beautiful stranger returning the favor, the bell in the church tower rang once. Eleven more rings and church would be out. It was now or never, I thought, wincing at the irony of mass ending too soon.

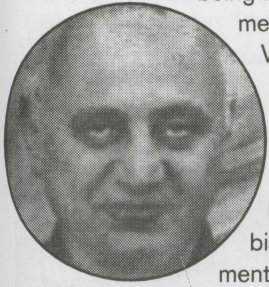
Timing each thrust with the subsequent rings, I prayed that the girl would finish. Taking my cue, she held each scream long enough to be drowned out by the next bell. On the twelfth and final clang, she baptized my hand with her warm juices. Heaving, I pulled my fingers slowly out of her and wiped my soaking hand along my pants. The shuffle of parishioners could be heard directly outside the velvet curtains. With an ecstatic grin and a few adjustments to her hair and clothes, she was ready to go. I nodded good-bye in disbelief, a bit shy now that it was over.

"Thanks," she muttered and slinked out of the room to file in with the crowd.

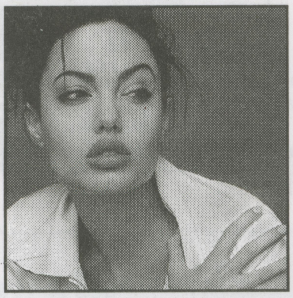
cheers + jeers

cheers. Sex is healthy, revitalizing, energizing, nurturing. Be very proud of yourself if you are "of a certain age" and still enjoy sex. Don't feel one hour of guilt. You are exemplary–a role model for other women. *Helen Gurley Brown, in* Newsweek

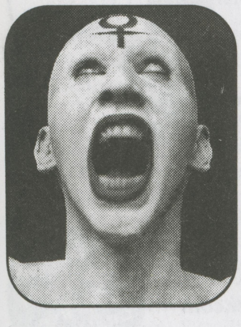
jeers. "Gays in the military I find absurd. I came from a time when people were being killed by our government in a war in Vietnam. My cousins and school friends came back in pieces in body bags. Some people have said it's a lesbian equal-employment issue because women from poor or rural areas can only become out as lesbians by joining the military first. Fine, as long as they don't shoot anybody." *Author Felice Picano, who is openly gay, to San Diego's* Gay & Lesbian Times



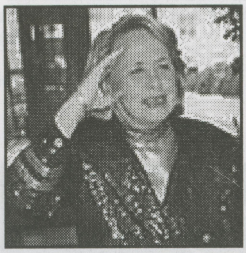
cheers. "Honestly, I like everything. Boyish girls, girlish boys, the heavy and the skinny." *Angelina Jolie, in* Elle



jeers. "You've got these people complaining about gays in the Boy Scouts. You've got people complaining about not enough Black television programs. You've got people complaining about not enough women priests. I'm thinking about complaining about not being able to be a Girl Scout. It's crazy." *Marilyn Manson on political correctness in* Talk

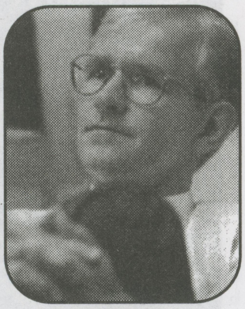


cheers. "When I was 18 and 19 and 20, I would weigh myself and write it down in my diary. I'm not that person now. I have that feeling of not caring. I'm just happy being me." *Kate Winslet, in* In Style

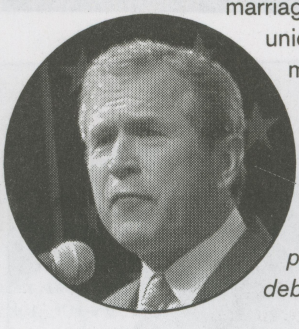


jeers. "I always felt I'd go either way for a box of chocolate but I refuse to use that horrible word bisexual." *Gossip columnist Liz Smith in* Us Weekly

cheers. "The challenge for gay Republicans like me is to make gay rights a bipartisan cause." *Congressman Steve Gunderson, in the* Advocate



jeers. I am not for gay marriage. I think marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman. *Statement made by George W. Bush during the first 2000 presidential debate*



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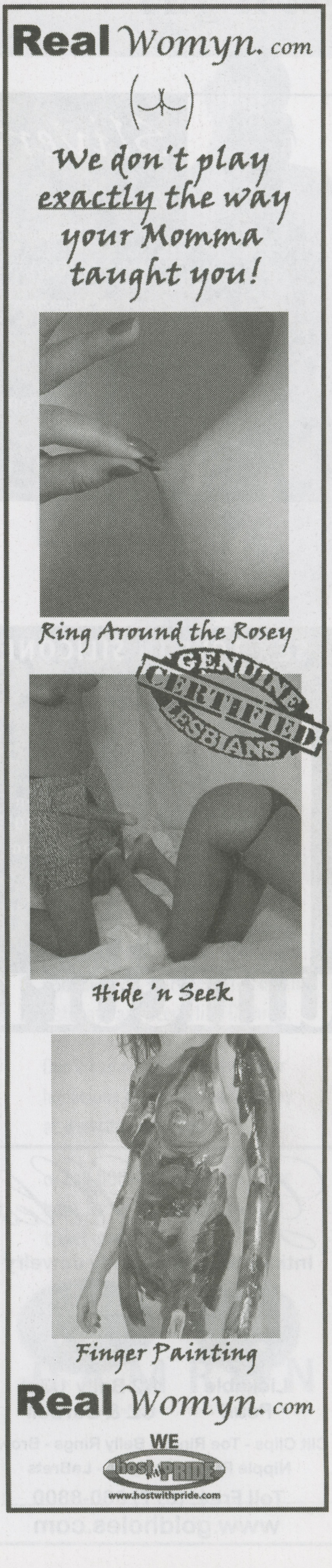

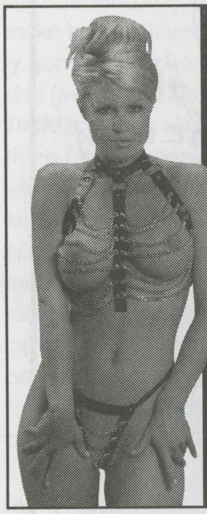

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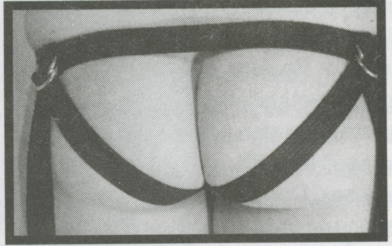

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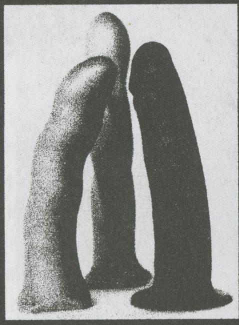

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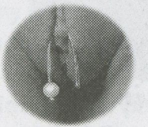

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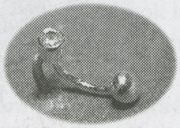

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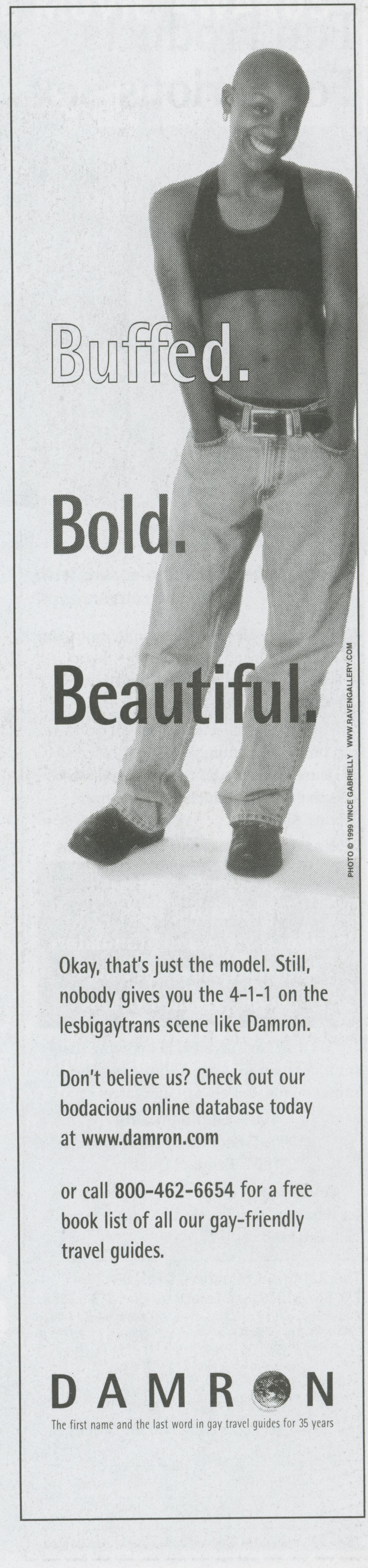

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Hand Maid

I make my own leather toys and gear. I really dig the sense of accomplishment I get from finishing a shiny new harness or a set of restraints. The process of working the leather, along with the smell, the sharp, shiny tools, and the crack of the hammer is a sensual experience unto itself. There's nothing like the sensation of getting my ass reddened with my own paddle. *Heidi*

Faucet Freak

My favorite sex toy isn't exactly a sex toy, but it works miracles nonetheless. Simply put, it would have to be my bath faucet. Using it entails having my legs sticking up and out of the bath while I position myself directly under the water, but there is something about the sensation water creates that can't be replicated, and it therefore makes the absurdity of the position well worth it! *Alexandra*

Easy Rider

My favorite sex toy is the Hot Rod 2 dildo. It has a large, bulbous head that feels amazing going in and out. It also has ridges around the shaft that are wonderful for extra texture. It's curved, so it's great for G spot stimulation as well. It's also the perfect size: large enough so that you get that feeling of fullness that you want from a dildo but not so large that it's uncomfortable or hard to manipulate–a great size for either vaginal or anal penetration. Plus, it's harness compatible. What more could you want? *Anne*

Pins and Needles

My girlfriend and I like the Wartenberg wheel, affectionately called the "pokiewheel." I love to see her shiver and writhe with pleasure while I run it over her back or breasts or bum. Yummy! *Michele*

Egg Her On

My favorite toy is a jelly rubber egg that has a silver bullet vibe inside. The egg has a firm, nubby tip that gives a strong but not-too-buzzy vibration, and the rubber all around keeps it much quieter than most battery vibes. It's small and discreet–great for travel–and it's so cute! It comes in pink, blue, and green, and I have all three colors. Unfortunately, the jelly egg takes some weird kind of battery that is not quite AA and I can't find any. I've jimmied the connections so that AAs work sometimes, but things do tend to get jostled, and then all the king's horses and all the king's men... *Randy*

Bed Wetter

My favorite sex toy is definitely my G-Spotter dildo. It curves up at the tip and is long and thick enough to hit the right spot every time. My super-talented girlfriend loves to fuck me with it while she goes down on me. Her favorite trick is to pull it out just as I start to come so she can watch me ejaculate all over our bed. *Kerry*

Old Friend

My first vibrator is still my favorite sex toy. It's a plug-in coil-style vibe. I love it because it has a powerful, steady thrum, it rests heavy on my clit, and it's super quiet–unlike me when I use it and someone's got their fingers in my cunt! I've never given it a name, but my lovers all seem to call it something different: "Your Friend," "The Toy" or "Elmo." *Allison*

tell us! which historical figure would you most like to have sex with? Let us know by December 15, 2000, and we'll send you a free issue. Write **On Our Backs** 3415 César Chavéz, Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94110; fax 415-648-4705, e-mail onourbacks@onourbacksmag.com

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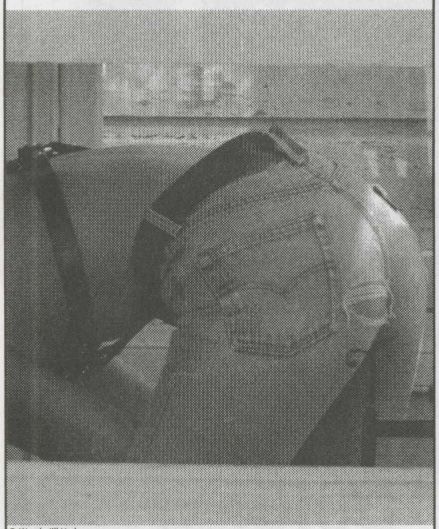

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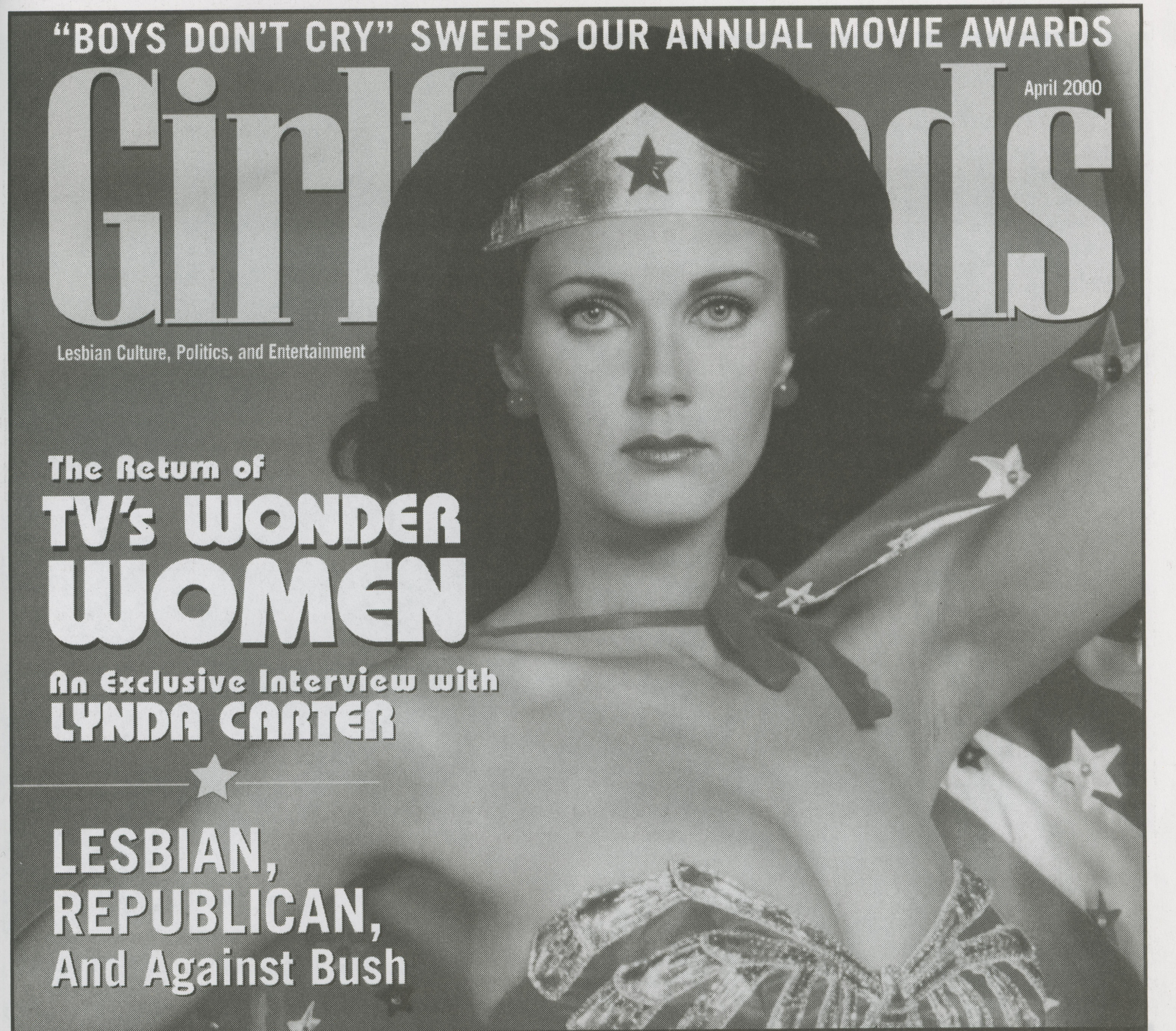

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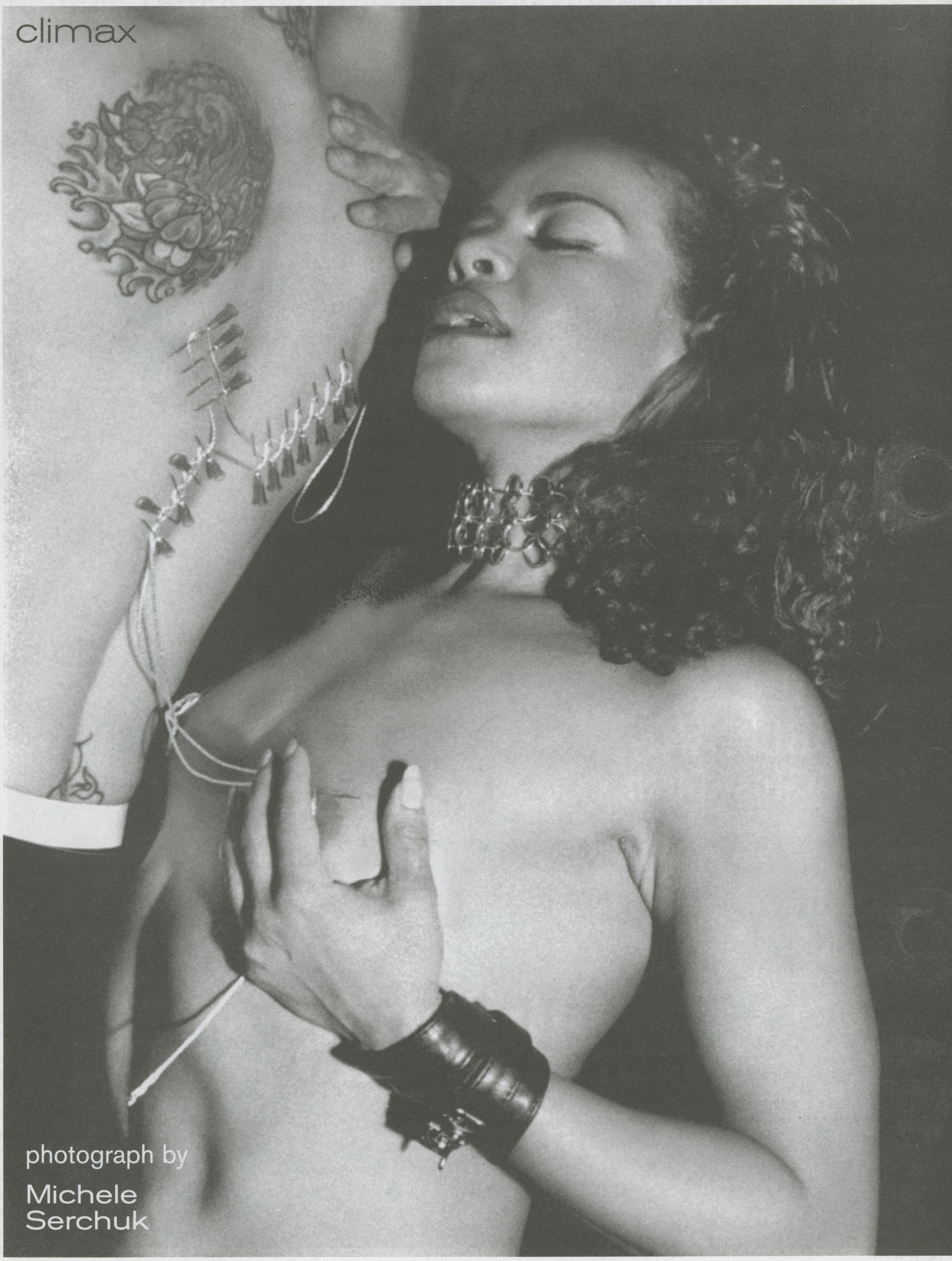

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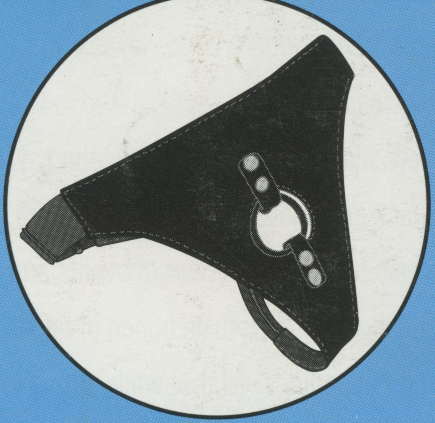

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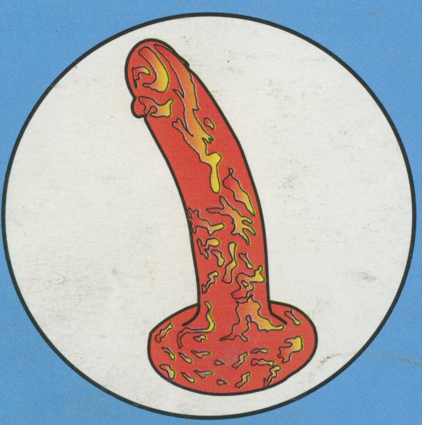

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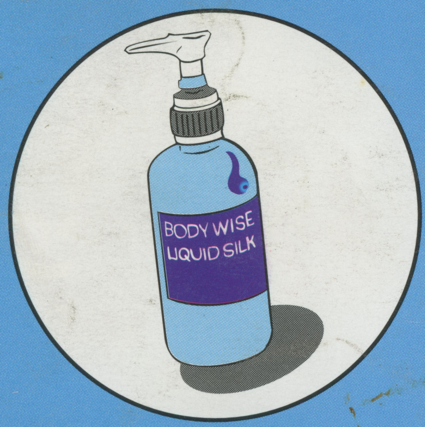

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